

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 2

Output 1.5

Question No. 165

Senator Siewert asked the following written question:

Early Intervention Program

- a) What evaluation (if any) has the AGD or any other Commonwealth Department undertaken of the value and impact of programs funded through the Early Intervention Program ('EIP') on the prevention of and response to family violence and sexual assault in Indigenous communities?
- b) What evaluation (if any) did the AGD or any other Commonwealth Department undertake of the impact of the defunding of EIP on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim survivors of family violence and sexual assault?
- c) If there have been no evaluations, on what rational basis has this funding decision been made? If evaluations have been completed, will the Department make these publicly available?
- d) Where evaluations have been carried out, is the Department able to provide details of the involvement of the funded agencies in the evaluation process?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) In 2009, the Department funded Yoorana Gunya Family Violence Healing Centre Aboriginal Corporation to commission an evaluation of the Early Intervention Program (EIP). The evaluation was conducted by Starfish Consulting and the final report was titled *Working with Clay*.
- b) An evaluation of the impact of defunding the EIP in 2012-13 was not conducted because the funding was available for a one-year period only (i.e. 2011-12). Organisations were aware of the funding period.
- c) In the 2012 Budget, Indigenous Programs Savings were redirected to cover portfolio commitments, supporting Indigenous community safety initiatives in the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory package.

The majority of funds in 2011-12 under the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS) appropriation were committed to 14 FVPLS organisations (92%), which will continue to receive base funding. These organisations are able to use this funding to provide early intervention and prevention programs. Three of the seven organisations that receive EIP funds also receive FVPLS funds.

- d) The 2009 *Working with Clay* report examined five EIP projects that were funded at that time. Of those five, Bravehearts Inc, Relationships Australia WA and YMCA Top End were funded for EIP in 2011-12.