

## **Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

The committee met on Friday 27 February 2015 from 9 am until 3 pm to examine cross portfolio Indigenous matters.

The committee called:

- the Department and agencies of the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio, including the Office of Township Leasing, the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) as well as the Northern Land Council (NLC), and
- the Department of Health.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the findings of the Australian National Audit Office in its Report no. 13 2014-15 *Audit of Financial Statements of Government Entities* with regard to issues concerning the NLC's Financial Statements,
- the funding of the Ranger Program,
- funeral assistance under the Aboriginals Benefit Account,
- the COAG investigation into Indigenous land administration and use, including consultation and the media release of the NLC of 20 February 2015 calling for experts on the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* to be added to the working group rolls,
- the five year review of the Groote Eylandt township lease,
- the role of the Executive Director of the Office of Township Leasing and the purpose and operation of the Office's consultative forums,
- an update on examinations and investigations figures for the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations,
- the level of registrations following a requirement for Indigenous corporation compliance for funding under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS),
- the appointment process for the new IBA Chair, Mr Edward Fry,
- IBA's latest home loan figures,
- the Forrest Review recommendation regarding the selling of a portion of IBA's employment loan portfolio to raise capital,
- the late provision of answers to questions taken on notice during the previous estimates round,
- an update on the funding round for the IAS,
- the Remote Jobs and Communities Program, including the latest job figures and the new work-for-the-dole scheme,
- interim funding for Bloodwood Tree Association following the decision of Aboriginal Hostels Limited to cease funding for the community and corporate partnership program,

- the Remote School Attendance Strategy, including vacancies for school attendance officers, and program evaluation,
- the allocation of \$10 million in funding for renal services in central Australia,
- chronic disease-management program cessation,
- future funding for Tackling Smoking, and
- the cessation of funding for Indigenous and Remote Eye Health Service and the delivery of services, and future funding, through the Rural Health Outreach Fund.