



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Additional Estimates 2023–24  
Friday, 16 February 2024  
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 4.38pm.

The committee called the following departments and agencies:

- National Indigenous Australians Agency
- Department of Health and Aged Care
- Anindilyakwa Land Council
- Central Land Council
- Northern Land Council
- Tiwi Land Council
- Wreck Bay Aboriginal Council
- Torres Strait Regional Authority
- Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
- Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation
- Indigenous Business Australia
- Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation
- Office of Township Leasing

The committee released:

- Department of Health
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Topics discussed by the committee included:

National Indigenous Australians Agency

- Delay in returning AQoNs from previous estimates round;
- Update on the progress of a Makarrata Commission;
- Youpla Support Program (funeral cover for First Nations);
- Funding for Volga River Rangers Program;
- Federal Treaty progress since Voice to Parliament referendum outcome; and
- Proportion of Indigenous Advancement Strategy expenditure to non-Indigenous.

Organisations

- Empowered Communities expenditure;
- Closing the Gap implementation plan (2024);
- Remote Jobs;
- Funding adequacy for sea wall infrastructure projects in Torres Strait;
- Structural reform and expenditure in Closing the Gap implementation;
- First Nations healing services;
- NIAA program outcome evaluations and performance reporting;
- State and Territory breakdown of Remote Jobs program funding levels;

- Better, Safer Future for Central Australia Plan;
- Yalari scholarships;
- NIAA funding directed to policing;
- Central Australian Regional Controller;
- Family Safety Branch;
- Pathway to treaty;
- Deaths in Custody;
- Definitions around indigenous community-controlled organisations;
- Non-compliance reviews;
- Fraud controls and measures; and
- Yipirinya School.

#### Anindilyakwa, Central, Northern, and Tiwi Land Councils

- Responses to ANAO audit report of the Anindilyakwa Land Council;
  - Processing times and statistics for Section 19 Land Use Agreements;
  - Resourcing and election of board members;
  - Dispute resolution policy;
  - Fraud investigations and conflicts of interest;
  - Winchelsea mine and occurrences of neurodegenerative diseases on Groot Island;
- and
- Domestic violence prevention programs.

#### Wreck Bay Aboriginal Council and Torres Strait Regional Authority

- Sea wall construction adaptation measures in the Torres Strait;
- Transfer of lease agreements Aboriginal Land Grant (Jervis Bay Territory); and
- Amendment (Strengthening Land and Governance Provisions) Bill 2022.

#### Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

- New regulatory posture and regulatory framework and integrity; and
- Status and determinations of investigations into reporting obligations.

#### Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation

- Ayers Rock Resort acquisition price and profitability during COVID-19; and
- Status of ILSC national debt and steps being taken to rectify (i.e., divesting land).

#### Indigenous Business Australia, Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation, and Office of Township Leasing

- Crossover between NTAIC and IBA portfolio and activities;
- NTAIC employee information (ongoing staff vs FTE and their locations; NTAIC office locations); and
- Status of NTAIC grant funding agreements and decision-making processes for approving grants.