

We have received a further Question of Notice from Senator Thorpe as follows:

- 1. Regarding the AWEP program, what is the estimated cost of all consultations and meetings that have occurred in relation to this program? Can you please provide a breakdown of departmental costs, and total amount remunerated to First Nations participants and reimbursement for travel costs.***

**First Nations Water Branch response:**

The First Nations Water Branch within DCCEEW is leading the AWEP program. The consultations across various locations include Dubbo, NSW 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023; Albury, NSW 31<sup>st</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023; Toowoomba, QLD 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023, and Renmark, SA 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Further to this a virtual gathering was held for delegates unable to attend the gatherings on

The expenditure breakdown:

	ALBURY	DUBBO	RENMARK	TOOWOOMBA
<b>Travel</b>	\$2,457.7	\$1,945.77	\$4,810.89	-
<b>Accommodation</b>	\$4,432.22	\$5,304.6	\$5,048.38	\$12,342
<b>Gatherings:</b> • Catering • Venue	\$4,248	\$5752	\$3,365	\$5,790
<b>Gathering Dinner</b>	\$697.70	\$368.50	\$650.00	\$927.78
<b>Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony</b>	\$350	\$244.32	\$800	\$700
<b>Renumeration:</b> • Sitting Fees	\$7000	\$3850	\$8,400	\$13,679.72
<b>Other costs (reimbursements)</b>				\$379.72 (Air fare reimbursement)
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	19,185.62	17465.19	23,074.27	33,819.22

**Total: \$93,544.30**

**Facilitator: \$90,000**

**Engagement Team costing: Travel \$10,056.81, Accommodation \$4,45.61 - Total: \$14,513.42**

**Overall Total: \$193,601.11**

**Please note:**

- Reimbursement for travel costs were limited as the department facilitated all forms of transport for attendance at the gatherings. Those who undertake travel arrangements were reimbursed accordingly.