

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee

Attorney-General's Department

Hearing date: 05 October 2022

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Jacinta Nampijinpa Price asked the following question:

Senator NAMPIJINPA PRICE: I guess, then, this would be a question for the Attorney-General's Department. While there is funding provided to Aboriginal legal services in places like the Northern Territory, where our population is 30 per cent Indigenous, other service providers are vital to supporting Indigenous Australians—particularly, women's legal services in the Northern Territory, where they can have up to 75 per cent Indigenous women who are clients. So indexation does impact them. Is this taken into consideration or is there anything being done with regard to the wage rises in this particular area for those services that are vital in supporting the communities right throughout the Northern Territory?

Ms Bogaart: I do not have that information in front of me. The legal assistance services and indexation and funding related things are in a different area. I can take that on notice for the Attorney-General's services. I can ask Ms Carolyn to answer in relation to family violence prevention legal services.

The response to the question is as follows:

The Australian Government funds legal aid commissions, community legal centres and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal services under the National Legal Assistance Partnership 2020-25 (NLAP). Indexation on NLAP baseline funding was committed at the time of finalising the NLAP in 2020, and included in the multilateral agreement with states and territories. NLAP baseline funding is indexed using Wage Cost Index 1, which at the time of finalising the NLAP was 1.5%.