

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### Referral

1.1 On 12 October 2016, the Senate referred the following matter to the Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee (the committee) for inquiry and report by 28 November 2016:

The Commonwealth funding of Indigenous Tasmanians, with particular reference to whether hundreds of millions of dollars in Commonwealth funds over the last decade were unfairly, unjustly, or illegally allocated to, and spent on, only 6 000 Indigenous Tasmanians, rather than almost 26 000.<sup>1</sup>

### Conduct of the inquiry

1.2 The inquiry was advertised on the committee's website. The committee also contacted a number of relevant individuals and organisations to notify them of the inquiry and invite submissions by 4 November 2016.

1.3 The committee received 13 submissions. A list of public submissions together with other information authorised for publication by the committee is at Appendix 1.

1.4 A public hearing was held in Sydney on 16 November 2016. A list of the witnesses who gave evidence is available at Appendix 2.

1.5 Submissions and the Hansard transcript of evidence may be accessed through the committee website at: [www.aph.gov.au/senate\\_fpa](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate_fpa).

### Acknowledgements

1.6 The committee thanks all the individuals and organisations that made submissions to this inquiry and appeared at the public hearing.

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1 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 10 — 12 October 2016, p. 315.

