

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 2: Indigenous  
**Topic:** Closing the Gap COAG negotiation

**Senator:** Dodson

**Question reference number:** 210

**Type of question:** written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 7 July 2017

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

What is the basis for the minister not accepting that a Closing the Gap target on justice could be negotiated through COAG knowing that the states and territories are involved in negotiating the current targets? Is a justice target being considered?

**Answer:**

At the recent Council of Australian Governments meeting all jurisdictions agreed to invest significant effort in 2017 to refresh the Closing the Gap agenda. A cornerstone of the refresh will be engaging meaningfully with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and organisations, including at a local level to make sure the agenda reflects their needs and aspirations for the future.

New targets, including a justice target, will be considered as part of this work.