



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL AND TORRES **BIRAIT ISANDER AFFAIRS** INQUIRY INTO THE HIGH LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT OF INDIGENOUS JUVENILES AND YOUNG ADULTS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AT THE 27 MAY 2010 HEARING ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

The Committee asked the following questions at the hearing on 27 May 2010, and the Department provides the following responses

Question								
Evaluations and funding of Indiger	Evaluations and funding of Indigenous justice programs (27 May 2010 transcript, pp. 6-7)							
Please provide more information about the	a) A tender process for a first tranche of evaluations is currently underway. A total of twenty programs across four 'projects' are to be evaluated:							
evaluation of Indigenous justice initiatives that the Attorney-	Project A: Aboriginal Sentencing Courts and Conferences							
General announced on 6 August	- Port Adelaide and Murray Bridge Nunga Courts, South Australia (SA)							
2009:	- Port Augusta Aboriginal Sentencing Court (SA)							
a) Which programs will be	- Port Lincoln Aboriginal Conferencing (SA)							
evaluated?	- s.9c (Criminal Law Sentencing Act) 1988 Aboriginal Sentencing Conferences (SA)							
b) When will findings be released?	- Youth Justice Conferencing, Queensland (Qld), and							
	- Community Courts, Northern Territory (NT)							
	Project B: Offender Support/Reintegration							
	- Dthina Yuwali, Aboriginal Alcohol & Other Drugs Program, New South Wales (NSW)							
	- Roebourne DECCA Project, Pilbara region (WA)							
	- Aboriginal Reconnect Program, Tasmania (Tas)							
	- Koori Offender Support and Mentoring Program, Victoria (Vic)							
	- Aboriginal Cultural Immersion Program (Vic)							

Qι	iestion	Answer
		- Marumali Program (Vic)
		- Koori Cognitive Skills program (Vic)
		- Local Justice Worker Program (Vic)
		Project C: Diversion Programs
		- Aggression Replacement Training (Qld)
		- Woorabinda Early Intervention (Qld))
		- Aboriginal Power Cup (SA)
		- Tiwi Islands Youth Diversion Unit (NT)
		Project D: Night and Community Patrols
		- Northbridge Policy and Juvenile Aid Group (WA)
		- Safe Aboriginal Youth Patrols Program (NSW)
		b) The closing date for tender applications for the first tranche is 30 June 2010. Timing for the release of findings will depend on the overall length of each evaluation project (between six months and three years) and will be negotiated with the successful tenderer/s prior to contract signing.
c)	Could you provide a state-by- state breakdown of the amount of funding spent on prevention for youth programs?	The Department does not have a record of all funding spent of prevention for youth programs nationally, including any breakdown by jurisdiction. Much expenditure is provided by the State and Territory Governments. The Attorney-General's Department's main source of funding for Indigenous youth programs is the Indigenous
***************************************	Toryona programo.	Justice Program. Detailed information on organisations funded under that program by jurisdiction for 2009-10, 2008-09 and 2007-08 is Attachment A .
2.	Are ongoing funding strategies for Indigenous justice programs being developed with the States and Territories?	There is no multi-jurisdictional funding strategy for Indigenous justice programs at this time.

Qı	Question Answer						
Eı	Engaging Indigenous people and delivering programs and services (27 May 2010 transcript, pp. 9-14)						
3.	Please provide numbers of people with Indigenous background who are engaged with your department at COAG and policy development level?	As at 24 June 2010, there were 21 people employed with the Attorney-General's Department who have identified themselves as Indigenous Australians. The Department does not maintain records on number of people with Indigenous backgrounds working specifically in policy development roles.					
4.	a) What are the key criteria you consider when determining which organisation will be	Legal Aid and Policy Reform Program (Comprises the Legal Aid for Indigenous Australians Program and the Law and Justice Advocacy Development Program).					
	funded to deliver a particular program?	The Legal Aid for Indigenous Australians Program went to tender nationally in 2004-2006 and in 2007-2008 for Queensland North zone. The Request for Tender announced that the Australian Government was seeking to purchase a range of legal aid services for Indigenous Australians from organisations which have:					
		 demonstrated capacity to deliver high quality and efficient legal aid services in accordance with applicable professional and ethical standards (weighting – 40%) 					
		• capacity to provide an accessible and a culturally appropriate legal service to Indigenous Australians (weighting – 40%)					
		• capacity to achieve the priorities set out in the Policy Directions for the Delivery of Legal Aid Services To Indigenous Australians 2006 (weighting – 15%), and					
		• co-operation and relationships with other service providers (weighting – 5%).					
		A general preference to engage a single service provider in any one State or zone was stated. However, the Government was open to the possibility that more than one service provider might be engaged.					
		Law and Justice Advocacy Development Program (Now part of the Legal Aid Policy Reform Program)					
		The Law and Justice Advocacy Development Program is a grant funded program. The Department seeks to identify financially sound and established State-based or regional Indigenous organisations that can deliver activities across regions to a flexible target group. The key criteria are publicly funded organisations that:					

Question	Answer
	• are accountable
	• provide the best service possible
	make more effective use of available funds, and
	• prioritise and manage risk effectively.
	Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (IFVPLS)
	Note – IFVPLS services are not selected via a tender process but through an open grants application process. However, criteria for funding are:
	sound governance structure
	demonstrated financial accountability
	• capacity to deliver services
	• community support
	• proposed services meet Whole of Government objectives
	satisfactory probity checks through relevant agencies
	Night Patrol Services in the Northern Territory
	Night patrols are funded through the local government shire structure in the Northern Territory. Shires councils are contracted to provide night patrol services within the identified communities in their region. The Department also funds four Indigenous organisations to deliver night patrol services outside the local shire boundaries in the Northern Territory.

Question	Answer
	Indigenous Justice Program
	In the Indigenous Justice Program, funding recipients are selected through a competitive assessment of applications against the program guidelines.
	The assessment process commences with the public call for applications under the eSub Common Funding Round. This is an annual, national, cross-agency process facilitated by FaHCSIA for Indigenous specific programs. The assessment of applications includes a round table cross-agency risk assessment for Australian Government agencies that is coordinated by FaHCSIA to look at risk of applicants at the organisational level. Then each agency conducts an assessment of applications against program specific criteria.
	The program has a single set of program guidelines, which all projects must address in order to be eligible for funding. There are four main types of projects: 1. youth diversion, 2. prisoner support, 3. restorative justice, and 4. community patrols. The assessment of each application covers an organisation's governance, infrastructure, past performance, budget, design of the project, risks and any other significant issues that may impact on service delivery.
	Projects funded under the Petrol Sniffing Strategy have to then address additional eligibility requirements, such as being within one of the designated geographic zones and targeting one of the elements in the Eight Point Plan. Similarly, projects funded under the Closing the Gap in the NT initiative also have additional eligibility requirements, such as being a community patrol in one of the 73 identified communities under the NTER.
	Consideration is also given to other strategic frameworks such as the National Indigenous Law and Justice Framework, the Government's Closing the Gap priorities and COAG agreements such as the Remote Service Delivery National Partnership.
4 b) What is the rate of success of Indigenous organisations, compared to non-government organisations,	Note: The Department assumes the question intended to say <i>non-Indigenous</i> rather than <i>non-government</i> and has answered accordingly.
receiving tenders? Which organisations have been successful	Legal Aid and Policy Reform Program The successful tender rate for Indigenous organisations for legal service provision under the Program is 100%.
in the last 10 years?	The succession tender rate for indigenous organisations for legal service provision under the riogram is 100%.

Question	Answer
	Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (IFVPLS) Under the Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Program, the Department selects the best service provider which demonstrates they can provide a quality service. The majority of IFVPLS services are provided by Indigenous organisations. It is not a pre-requisite to be an Indigenous organisation to be eligible for funding under the program but it would strengthen claims against criteria such as community support and capacity to deliver services. In 2009-10 the vast majority of the IFVPLS agencies were provided by Indigenous community organisations. There has always been a mix of Indigenous and non-Indigenous service providers with the priority for the program being the organisation that will deliver the highest standard of service provision. Night Patrol Services in the Northern Territory Night patrols are funded through the local government shire structure in the Northern Territory. Shires councils are contracted to provide night patrol services within the identified communities in their region. The Department also funds four Indigenous organisations to deliver night patrol services outside the local shire boundaries in the
	Indigenous Justice Program The Indigenous Justice Program predominantly funds Indigenous community controlled organisations. The Department approved 70 grants under the Program in 2009-10. 74% of these grants went to Indigenous community controlled organisations. All applicants, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, are required to demonstrate strong links with and support from the local Indigenous community, including how the community will be engaged and involved in the project's implementation. Further, some of the grants to non-Indigenous organisations are cooperative arrangements that Indigenous communities themselves have negotiated. For example, the Shire of Halls Creek receives funding for youth workers in Halls Creek, but also for three outlying Indigenous communities because those communities wanted the governance and management stability that the shire could provide.

Question	Answer				
		<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>		
	Non-Indigenous NGOs	<u>13</u>	<u>19%</u>		
	Indigenous NGOs	<u>52</u>	<u>74%</u>		
	Local Government organisations	<u>2</u>	<u>3%</u>		
	State or Territory Government	<u>3</u>	4%		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>100%</u>		
	The table at Attachment A lists the successful organisations for the last three financial years of 2009-10, 2008-09 and 2007-08.				
c) What strategies does your Department undertake to address the failure of Indigenous community organisations to satisfy criteria, build their capacity base, and enable a greater opportunity for them to win tenders?	Legal Aid for Indigenous Australians Program The Department adheres to the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines (CPGs) under the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 (FMA Act) and Financial Management and Accountability Regulations 1997 when selecting service providers. In accordance with the CPGs, the Legal Aid for Indigenous Australians Program tender process was conducted as an open and competitive process. The Department held Request for Tender (RFT) information sessions in capital cities and key regional centres, as well as independent tender assistance workshops for potential Indigenous tenderers. A tendering advice/inquiry line and website assisted potential tenderers seeking advice regarding the tender.				

Question	Answer
	Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (IFVPLS)
	The Department adopts a number of strategies to support Indigenous community organisations to optimise their success, reduce failure and build community capacity. Under the IFVPLS program services are supported in a number of ways, such as:
	regular contact between departmental project officers and services
	 six monthly reporting covering service delivery and financial expenditure is provided by the funded organisations and this assists in the identification of any inconsistencies or problems. If any concerns were to arise, support would be provided to ameliorate these.
	field visits to services
	annual conference of service providers to build capacity and knowledge
	 provision of training and development of staff in IFVPLS services
	• capacity building workshops (e.g. in budgeting and finance, etc.)
	availability of evaluators or auditors if appropriate
	business and governance mentoring and training.
	Night Patrol Services in the Northern Territory
	The Department is working closely with night patrol services providers to ensure the effective delivery of services across the Northern Territory. This includes maintaining regular contact with service providers, conducting field visits, monitoring service delivery through financial and performance reports and facilitating annual conferences and workshops that focus on capacity building.
	Indigenous Justice Program
	Applicants for Indigenous Justice Program fundingare provided with helpful responses to questions relating to the grant process to support their application process. Contract and project management under the Indigenous Justice Program includes site visits and liaison as practical support for Indigenous organisations to successfully manage projects.

Question
5a) The Committee has heard that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services receive less funding per client than do mainstream legal aid service providers. The Committee understands that the Attorney-General's Department is responsible for funding both mainstream and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal services It also understands the Attorney-General recently announced an additional \$34.9 million over four years for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services.
Can you provide figures for funding prior to recent budget announcement and following recent budget announcement to ATSILS and mainstream legal services?

Indigenous Legal Services (27 May 2010 transcript, pp. 17-18)

Table 1: Funding for legal assistance programs before and after recent budget announcement (1)

	2009-10 (\$'000)	2010-11 (\$'000)	2011-12 (\$'000)	2012-13 (\$'000)	2013-14 (\$'000)
Legal Aid Program	173,403	194,186	198,286	201,651	205,233
Commonwealth Community Legal Services Program	26,145	31,483	33,925	34,443	35,334
Indigenous Legal Aid and Policy Reform Program (2)	54,981	63,721	65,466	66,535	68,337
Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Program	19,389	19,500	19,833	20,190	20,816
Total	273,918	308,890	317,510	322,819	329,720

Notes:

Answer

- (1) Excludes one-off funding provided in 2009-10 and Departmental Expenses
- (2) The Legal Aid for Indigenous Australians and the Law and Justice Advocacy Development Programs will be combined from 1 July 2010

Table 2: Additional Budget funding by program (1)

	2010-11 (\$'000)	2011-12 (\$'000)	2012-13 (\$'000)	2013-14 (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)
Legal Aid Program	22,090	23,203	23,416	23,554	92,263
Commonwealth Community Legal Services Program	5,136	7,188	7,224	7,266	26,814
Indigenous Legal Aid and Policy Reform Program (2)	8,040	8,883	8,977	9,030	34,931
Total	35,267	39,275	39,617	39,850	154,009

Question	Answer				
	Notes: (1) Includes \$1.702 million in Departmental Expenses over four years across all programs. (2) The Legal Aid for Indigenous Australians and the Law and Justice Advocacy Development Programs will be combined from 1 July 2010				
5 b) Can you provide the Committee with information about how much funding per client Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal services receive compared with mainstream legal aid services?	The Department cannot provide a funding per client figure as funding is not provided and services are not recorded on this basis. If a per capita comparison is made between the Australian Government's contributions to Indigenous specific and mainstream legal aid, the Government allocates approximately \$100 for every Indigenous person and approximately \$8.50 for every non-Indigenous person [based on 2006 ABS population statistics (517,000 Indigenous people and 20,180,000 non-Indigenous people) and 2009-10 base funding only (not including one-off funding)].				
	If a comparison is made on a funding per service basis, it is important to recognise the differences between the providers. They service different client groups and operate under different governance and organisational structures, funding arrangements, working conditions and salary awards, and geographical environments. The Australian Government provides funding to the ATSILS to deliver legal aid services to Indigenous Australians in criminal, civil and family law matters. The Australian Government provides funding to legal aid commissions to deliver services in Commonwealth law matters only.				
	Figures for the current financial year will not be available until August 2010 therefore we have provided figures for the last complete financial year (i.e. 2008-09). Funding per law type figures cannot be provided for the ATSILS.				
	Table 3: ATSILS' funding per service for 2008-09				
	Services # of Services				

Question	Answer			
		Advice Services	80,564	
		Duty Lawyer Services	32,833	
		Case Civil Services	5,944	
		Case Criminal Services	67,843	
		Case Family Services	2,575	
		Case Inquest (Death in Custody) Service	es 8	
		Case Violence Protection Services	308	
		Total Services	190,075	
		Total Funding (1)	\$58.334m	
		Funding per service (2)	\$306.89	
	service depend on \$20,000 per matte	ng per service figure does not provide a true the nature of the service provided. For exam r while the cost of providing an advice service mission's funding per service for 2008-09	nple, expensive Indi	genous cases cost over
		Services	# of Services	
		Information & CLE	563,817	
		Legal Advice & Minor Assistance	133,022	
		Duty Lawyer Services	18,711	
		Family Dispute Resolution Services	15,473	
		Litigation Services	26,440	
		Total Services	757,463	
		Total Funding (1)	\$171.113m	
		Funding per service (2)	\$225.90	

Question	Answer
	Notes:
	(1) Total funding includes one-off funding, NTER and funding for expensive cases but excludes capital funding.
	(2) The average funding per service figure does not provide a true indication of the cost per service. Costs per service depend on the nature of the service provided. For example, the cost of providing an advice service is significantly lower than the cost of providing litigation services.

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		2009-10 Indigenous Justice Projects		Printed: 13/07/201010:17 AM	
No.	Funded Organisation	Project Short Description	Sub-Output	Commitment (\$)	Indigenous organisation
Tasmania			<u> </u>	Г	
1	Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc	Pakana youth diversion and crime prevention	P&JS Youth	90,100	Yes
2	Circular Head Aboriginal Corp	Youth Justice Worker	P&JS Youth	113,142	Yes
3	Jahadi Indigenous Experiences	Indigenous Youth Camps	P&JS Youth	36,750	Yes
/intorio	Subtotal			239,992	
/ictoria					
1		Motor Trades Workshop	P&JS Youth	81,000	Yes
2	Western Suburbs Indigenous Gathering Place Association	Prevention & Justice Support	P&JS Youth	48,500	Yes
3	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	H.O.P.E Project	P&JS Youth	44,633	No
	Subtotal			174,133	
New South		**	<u> </u>	·	
1	Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corp Ltd	Youth diversion - Collarenebri, Goodooga and Menindee	P&JS Youth	133,500	Yes
2	Hunter Aboriginal Childrens Services Inc	Court Support Worker	P&JS Youth	70,601	Yes
3	Western Sydney Community Aboriginal Corp	Youth diversion programs	P&JS Youth	91,306	Yes
4	Marist Youth Care Limited	Burringora Program for Indigenous Youth	P&JS Youth	136,050	No
5	South Inverell Residents Association	Youth diversion programs	P&JS Youth	53,150	Yes
6	Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn	Young Offenders Support (Indigenous)	P&JS Youth	110,363	No
ACT	Subtotal			594,970	
1	Aboriginal Justice Centre Inc.	AJC Men's Program	P&JS Youth	30,000	Yes
	Subtotal	The state of the s		30,000	
Queenslar	nd				
1	First Contact Aboriginal Corp for Youth	First Contact Urban Trax Program	P&JS Youth	157,800	Yes
2	Nintiringanyi Cultural Training Centre Inc	West Cairns youth prevention and diversion project	P&JS Youth	99,970	Yes
3	Innisfail Community Justice Group (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders) Corp	Program for Children and Families	P&JS Youth	96,000	Yes
4	Indigenous Wellbeing Centre Aboriginal Corp	Youth diversion programs	P&JS Youth	110,150	Yes
5	Australian Theatre for Young People	Palm Island youth art project	P&JS Youth	74,100	No
6	Skills Training Mackay Association Inc	Mackay youth justice diversionary	P&JS Youth	70,860	Yes
7	Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council	PSS - Doomadgee Sport Recreation and Arts Precint	P&JS Youth	750,000	Yes
	Total	1	4,	1,358,880	
Northern 1	Territory Territory				
1	Tangentyere Council Inc	Tangentyere Drum Atewme Project	P&JS Youth	116,987	Yes
2	Gap Youth Centre Aboriginal	Program Support	P&JS Youth	65,510	
3	Corrugated Iron Youth Arts Inc	Indigenous Arts Program	P&JS Youth	32,000	Yes
4	Groote Eylandt & Milyakburra Youth Development Unit Inc	Programs Manager	P&JS Youth	55,700	Yes
5	Australian Theatre for Young People	Tennant Creek youth development project	P&JS Youth	67,760	No
6	Tangentyere Council Inc	CAYLUS Rehabilitation Support	P&JS Youth	353,400	Yes
7	Tangentyere Council Inc	CAYLUS Volatile Substance Reduction Project	P&JS Youth	96,485	Yes
8	Tangentyere Council Inc	Extension to CAYLUS Office	P&JS Youth	60,000	Yes
9	Mission Australia	Integrated youth services	P&JS Youth	152,370	No
10	NPY Womens Council	PSS - Kiwirrkurra youth diversion	P&JS Youth	300,000	Yes
	Total	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	L	1,300,212	
Nestern A	4				
1	KALACC	Yiriman Kimberley youth diversion project	P&JS Youth	81,000	Yes
2	Geraldton Streetworks Aboriginal Corp	Youth Diversion Program	P&JS Youth	128,229	Yes
3	Midwest Football Academy	Youth mentor project	P&JS Youth	102,900	No
4	Wila Gutharra Community	Northampton Passage Through Time Program	P&JS Youth	88,323	Yes
5	Aboriginal Urban Services	Northern Suburbs Supporting Indigenous Families Program	P&JS Youth	89,469	Yes
6	Armadale Noongar Corp	Youth diversion programs	P&JS Youth	96,560	Yes
	Langford Aboriginal Association Inc	Moorditj Noongar Nop and Yoka			
7	(LAA)	Solid Noongar Boys and Girls	P&JS Youth	104,960	Yes
8	Wunan Foundation	Indigenus Hip Hop tours	P&JS Youth	28,319	Yes
9	Warburton Community Inc.	Warburton Youth Diversion Petrol Sniffing Strategy Project	P&JS Youth	106,112	Yes

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45			TOTAL	6,112,459	
	Subtotal			395,716	
3	Males in Black	Making It Better Program	P&JS Youth	110,000	Yes
2	Yalata Community Inc	Yalata Youth at Risk Program	P&JS Youth	135,731	Yes
1	Life Without Barriers	Planning Strong Futures Program	P&JS Youth	149,985	Yes
outh A	ustralia				
<u>-</u>	Total			2,018,556	
12	Wirrimanu Aboriginal Corporation	PSS - Wirrimanu Youth Development Programme	P&JS Youth	160,511	Yes
11	Shire of Halls Creek	PSS - Expansion of Youth Services	P&JS Youth	709,973	No
10	Warmun Community (Turkey Creek) Incorporated	PSS - Warmun Youth Diversion Program	P&JS Youth	322,200	Yes