## DECEIVE - JUL 2010 ST514

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL AND TORRES **BIRALT ISANDER AFF**AIRS 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	Answer
Evaluations and funding of Indiger	nous justice programs (27 May 2010 transcript, pp. 6-7)
1. 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)

Ou	lestion	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	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.
	for youth programs?	The Attorney-General's Department's main source of funding for Indigenous youth programs is the Indigenous Justice Program. Detailed information on organisations funded under that program by jurisdiction for 2009-10, 2008-09 and 2007-08 is <b>Attachment A</b> .
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.

Question	Answer			
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).			
which organisation will be 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:			
	<ul> <li>demonstrated capacity to deliver high quality and efficient legal aid services in accordance with applicable professional and ethical standards (weighting – 40%)</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>capacity to provide an accessible and a culturally appropriate legal service to Indigenous Australians (weighting – 40%)</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>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</li> </ul>			
	• 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
	<ul> <li>proposed services meet Whole of Government objectives</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>satisfactory probity checks through relevant agencies</li> </ul>
	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 Comm Round. This is an annual, national, cross-agency process facilitated by FaHCSIA for Indigenou programs. The assessment of applications includes a round table cross-agency risk assessment Government agencies that is coordinated by FaHCSIA to look at risk of applicants at the organiz 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 as being within one of the designated geographic zones and targeting one of the elements in the Eight Poi 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 in the last 10 years?	Legal Aid and Policy Reform Program The successful tender rate for Indigenous organisations for legal service provision under the Program 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 Northern Territory.
	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				
		Number	Percent		
	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>	<u>4%</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>100%</u>		
	The table at <b>Attachment A</b> lists the successful organisations for the last three financial years of 2009-10, 2008-09 and 2007-08.				
4 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 <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i> (FMA Act) and <i>Financial Management and Accountability Regulations 1997</i> 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	Answer						
5a) The Committee has heard that	Indigenous Legal Services (27 May 20 Table 1: Funding for legal assistance p			ecent budget	announcem	ent (1)	
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services receive less funding per client than do		2009-10 (\$'000)	2010-11 (\$'000)	2011-1 (\$'000	2 2012	-13 2	.013-14 (\$'000)
mainstream legal aid service	Legal Aid Program	173,403	194,186	198,28			205,233
providers. The Committee understands that the Attorney-	Commonwealth Community Legal Services Program	26,145	31,483	33,92		443	35,334
General's Department is responsible for funding both	Indigenous Legal Aid and Policy Reform Program (2)	54,981	63,721	65,46	6 66,	535	68,337
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?	Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Program	19,389	19,500	19,83	3 20,	190	20,816
	Total	273,918	308,890	317,51	0 322,	819 3	329,720
	Notes:         (1) Excludes one-off funding provided         (2) The Legal Aid for Indigenous Austr combined from 1 July 2010         Table 2: Additional Budget funding by	ralians and the I	-	-	Developme	nt Program:	s will be
		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		
	<ul> <li><u>Notes:</u></li> <li>(1) Includes \$1.702 million in Departmental Expenses over four years across all programs.</li> <li>(2) The Legal Aid for Indigenous Australians and the Law and Justice Advocacy Development Programs will be combined from 1 July 2010</li> </ul>		
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 the available until August 2010 therefore we have provided figures for the last complete 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.		
	Services # of Services		

Question	Answer			
<u>x</u>		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 ) Services	8	
		Case Violence Protection Services	308	
		Total Services	190,075	
		<b>Total Funding</b> (1)	\$58.334m	
		Funding per service (2)	\$306.89	
	\$20,000 pe	pend on the nature of the service provided. For exampler matter while the cost of providing an advice service <i>id Commission's funding per service for 2008-09</i>		
		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	
			757,463 \$171.113m \$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.

2009-10 Indigenous Justice Projects

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No.	Funded Organisation	Project Short Description	Sub-Output	Commitment (\$)	Indigenous organisation
lasmania	······	Pakana youth diversion and crime	T	Γ	
1	Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc	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
	Subtotal			239,992	
/ictoria					
1	East Gippsland K.E.E Co-operative Ltd	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
1 45 44	Subtotal			174,133	
lew South	n Wales Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corp	Youth diversion - Collarenebri,		T	
1	Ltd	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	P&JS Youth	110,363	No
	Subtotal	(Indigenous)		594,970	
ACT	Gubtotal			004,010	
1	Aboriginal Justice Centre Inc.	AJC Men's Program	P&JS Youth	30,000	Yes
	Subtotal			30,000	
Queenslar	nd			1	
1	First Contact Aboriginal Corp for Youth	First Contact Urban Trax Program	P&JS Youth	157,800	Yes
2	Nintiringanyi Cultural Training Centre	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			1,358,880	
Iorthern 1	Ferritory		····· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	.,	
1	Tangentyere Council Inc	Tangentyere Drum Atewme Project	P&JS Youth	116,987	
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 Project	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	
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
Nantor *	Total			1,300,212	<b>.</b>
Vestern A	KALACC	Yiriman Kimberley youth diversion	P&JS Youth	81,000	Yes
		project			
2 3	Geraldton Streetworks Aboriginal Corp Midwest Football Academy	Youth Diversion Program Youth mentor project	P&JS Youth P&JS Youth	128,229	Yes
4	Wila Gutharra Community	Northampton Passage Through Time		88,323	Yes
5	Aboriginal Urban Services	Program Northern Suburbs Supporting	P&JS Youth	89,469	Yes
6	-	Indigenous Families Program			
5	Armadale Noongar Corp Langford Aboriginal Association Inc	Youth diversion programs Moorditj Noongar Nop and Yoka	P&JS Youth	96,560	Yes
	LEGISTICIA ADVITATION ASSOCIATION THE		P&JS Youth	104,960	Yes
7	(LAA)	Solid Noongar Boys and Girls	D0 10 V	00.040	Voc
		Solid Noongar Boys and Girls Indigenus Hip Hop tours Warburton Youth Diversion Petrol	P&JS Youth P&JS Youth	28,319 106,112	Yes Yes

Printed: 13/07/201010:17 AM 2009-10 Indigenous Justice Projects Warmun Community (Turkey Creek) PSS - Warmun Youth Diversion 322,200 Yes 10 P&JS Youth Incorporated Program 709,973 11 Shire of Halls Creek PSS - Expansion of Youth Services P&JS Youth No PSS - Wirrimanu Youth 12 Wirrimanu Aboriginal Corporation P&JS Youth 160,511 Yes Development Programme Total 2,018,556 South Australia 149,985 Yes 135,731 Yes Life Without Barriers Planning Strong Futures Program P&JS Youth 1 2 Yalata Community Inc Yalata Youth at Risk Program P&JS Youth Males in Black Making It Better Program P&JS Youth 110,000 Yes 3 395,716 Subtotal 45 TOTAL 6,112,459