

**Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

**Outcome 4 - Employment**

**DEEWR Question No. CA0024\_12**

**Senator Payne provided in writing.**

*Refers to previous DEEWR Question Nos EW0655\_12, EW0654\_12 and EW0656\_12.*

**Question**

**Indigenous Opportunities Policy**

In response to Question on Notice to DEEWR from the last estimates, namely EW0655\_12, EW0654\_12 and EW0656\_12, you outlined that there is no estimate of the cost to business of complying with the Indigenous Opportunities Policy, that no Regulatory Impact Statement has been done, and that there was \$21.18 billion contracts in the first financial year of the program that met the monetary threshold, but that you do not know how many of these contracts occurred in regions with significant Indigenous populations. Can you please inform the committee the nature of any work done on the potential impact of the IOP, and how you will determine how successful the program has been? Without this information the program looks like a thought bubble, albeit a good idea, without any approach to evidence-based policy.

**Answer**

In developing the Policy, consideration was given to the how much procurement would be in scope. In addition, there was an extensive consultation process involving government agencies, suppliers to government and Indigenous businesses. Feedback from the consultations was taken into account in implementation of the Policy.

The Policy's implementation was also informed by the research into other Commonwealth policies applying to procurement processes and international models for minority supplier procurement.

The Government has committed to reviewing the Policy after its introduction. This will provide the Government with an opportunity to determine the impact and success of the Policy.