

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 287

Topic: Closing the Gap Strategy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Wright asked:

In the Government's response to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs report, *Doing Time – Time for Doing*, it states that it accepts in principle the Committee's recommendation that the Commonwealth Government endorse justice targets developed by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General for inclusion in COAG's 'Closing the Gap' Strategy and that these targets should then be monitored and reported against. Has the government taken steps to include justice targets in COAG's 'Closing the Gap' Strategy?

If so, please report on progress.

If not, please provide a timeline for likely inclusion of the justice targets in COAG's 'Closing the Gap' Strategy.

Answer:

At the request of the Chair of the Council of Australian Governments, the Working Group on Indigenous Reform (WGIR) will consider the matter of justice specific Closing the Gap targets in its 2012 work plan. At the Commonwealth level, the Attorney-General's Department has portfolio responsibility for justice related matters.