

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

**Outcome Number:** 7

**Question No:** 219

**Topic:** CDEP

**Hansard Page:** 3 June 2011, CA 46

**Senator Payne** asked:

Please provide a breakdown of the 2,000 hours that building contractors engaged Indigenous workers as employees during the Wudapuli and Nama projects. How many employees are included and what was the period of time for each worker?

**Answer:**

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) was engaged by FaHCSIA in June 2007 to project manage the construction of 20 houses at the Wudapuli and Nama outstations near Wadeye in the Northern Territory. IBA contracted BlueScope Steel Limited – Lysaght Building Solutions, to construct the houses.

The figure of 2,000 hours is approximate. IBA does not have access to the breakdown of hours by employee. However, we can provide some further detail on the level of Indigenous participation.

Indigenous participation on the project was as follows:

- The project was undertaken over twelve months between August 2007 and August 2008.
- Five non-local Indigenous tradespeople were directly employed by Lysaght Building Solutions working a 52.5 hr week. One of these people was offered ongoing employment.
- A total of 15 local Indigenous workers were employed as labourers through a labour hire arrangement with the Thamarrurr Development Corporation, the local CDEP provider.
- Of the 15, the numbers on site varied on a daily basis (from one to eight) due to site requirements and individual availability. There was an average of two local workers on site each day for eight hours.

The figure of 2,000 hours relates only to the involvement of the local Indigenous workforce and, on review, would appear to be an underestimation of the actual hours worked.