

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Commonwealth Grants Commission

Question No: 152

Topic: National Partnership on remote housing

Reference: Hansard page 63 (31 May 2017)

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

Senator KETTER: On the issue of the national partnership on remote housing: this is a pressing social and economic issue. With respect to closing the gap, are payments made under the national partnership on remote housing excluded from the Commonwealth Grants Commission's assessment?

Mr Nichols: I believe that all payments associated with closing the gap are excluded from affecting GST shares; however, there is a national partnership payment on remote Indigenous housing that does have some effect.

Senator KETTER: Does the budget contain any new GST-excluded funding for remote housing to help close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage?

Mr Nichols: Not that I am aware.

Senator KETTER: Could you take that on notice?

Mr Nichols: We could take that on notice.

Answer:

The 2017-18 Commonwealth Budget did not contain any new GST-excluded funding for remote housing to help close the gap on indigenous disadvantage. The Budget contained two relevant payments:

- the Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal investment — Remote Australia Strategies Component, was quarantined from affecting GST shares in the 2016 Update terms of reference
- the National Partnership on Remote Housing, replacing the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing, has not been quarantined from affecting GST shares.