

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Justice target - development

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

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Question:

Senator McLUCAS: Of course you would be doing that. A lot of that is data collection, I imagine, but the next step after data collection is prioritising the development of a target. Is that work being undertaken?

Senator Scullion: The vast majority of the matters, everybody would concede, fall under the criminal code of the various state and territory jurisdictions. This is why the matter is through COAG.

Senator McLUCAS: That is right. That is why we established it that way.

Senator Scullion: Indeed. If we could move independently in any way on that we would be, but this is clearly a COAG agenda. As we have indicated, we would like to see this as part of the COAG agenda and that those negotiations will ensure that it has a level of priority on the COAG agenda. Beyond that, we will certainly report back on those elements of the COAG discussions at the next set of estimates. Or, if you would like to place a question on notice, I can give you an update on exactly where we are going in terms of the COAG agenda.

Answer:

The Government is considering whether a justice target is an effective mechanism to address Indigenous contact with the criminal justice system. It is yet to formally include the issue of a justice target on the current Council of Australian Governments agenda.