

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: Disability support for Indigenous Australians

Senator: Senator Rachel Siewert

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Type of Question: Written

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Question:

What programs of support are available in remote communities in the Northern Territory, by community?

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet does not specifically administer support for people with a disability. The department administers the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme (RJCP) in 23 regions in the Northern Territory.

The RJCP providers offer the same range of support services and assistance previously available under the Disability Employment Services programme, such as financial assistance for work related equipment and modifications, and employers are able to access the Supported Wage System. Providers also have access to the Participation Account to fund any additional assistance and services required for people with disability, including training and post placement support.

Job Services Australia and Disability Employment Services continue to operate in the Darwin area and Alice Springs. The 23 RJCP regions in the Northern Territory provide employment and participation services in all other locations, including Alice Springs town camps. Maps of the 60 RJCP regions across Australia are available at <http://employment.gov.au/remote-jobs-and-communities-program>.

Responsibility for programmes and services, benefits and payments for people with a disability, whether Indigenous or non-Indigenous, rests with the Department of Social Services.