

**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:** National Congress of Australia's First Peoples

**Senator:** Senator Rachel Siewert

**Question reference number:** 128

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 April 2014

**Number of pages:** 1

**Questions:**

1. The government says that it will continue to deal with the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples as a national representative body. Please advise how Congress is to be engaged and whether formal and regular meetings are in place with Congress?
2. In terms of engagement with Congress how does government plan to be better informed and have better capacity to govern Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs through its engagement with Congress?
3. What has Congress proposed to government in terms of engagement and better forms of governance?

**Answers:**

1. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has regular contact with the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples.
2. Engagement with the National Congress is considered continually. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs and his office meet with the Congress when appropriate. Congress provides submissions to government reviews.
3. This question is better directed to the National Congress.