

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: Treaties

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Question reference number: 159

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 18 April 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

The head of the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council, Mr Warren Mundine, proposed a plan for a raft of individual treaties with Aboriginal nations in an Australia Day address earlier this year. It was reported in The Australian on 28 January 2014 that the Minister for Indigenous Affairs committed the Government to consider Mr Mundine's proposal. Please provide an update on the work currently being undertaken to consider this proposal.

- a. Has the Minister met with Mr Mundine to discuss the proposal? If so, when? Were any advisers or departmental officials present at the meeting? If not, why not?
- b. Has the Minister sought and/ or been provided with advice on the implications of individual treaties with Aboriginal nations? If so, was this advice in the form of a written brief? When was this advice requested and/ or provided? If not, why not?
- c. Has the Attorney-General been consulted about the proposal? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, does not propose to disclose this to the Committee as he considers his meetings with Mr Mundine to be confidential and private.
- b. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) does not believe that it is appropriate to disclose to the Committee the timing and nature of advice it is providing to the Minister.
- c. PM&C is not in a position to respond.