

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Aboriginal Hostels Limited

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Question reference number: 141

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. AHL provides temporary accommodation throughout Australia via two streams; community operated hostels (otherwise known as Corporate and Community Partnerships Program by AHL) and hostels directly operated by AHL.
 - a. In the 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements, funding for the community operated hostels was reduced by approximately \$2,358,000
 - i. Why was the funding for this program reduced?
 - ii. What consultation has taken place with AHL and/or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about the impact on temporary accommodation options for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as a result of the funding reduction? Please provide details of any consultation.
 - iii. Bloodwood Tree Hostel was almost forced to close as a result of the reduction in funding to AHL. Can you advise if any other hostels were also left with no funding certainty as a result of the reduction in funding, and if any longer term funding is available to these organisations?
2. Provide a list of all the organisations that were previously funded under the [AHL] Corporate and Community Partnerships Program?
3. When was the decision made to move away from the Corporate and Community Partnerships program? What was the reason for this decision?

Answer:

1.a.i Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL) advise that the decision to reduce the allocation of funding towards the Corporate and Community Partnerships Program (CCPP) was made by the Board of AHL. A stepped cessation of the CCPP was part of strategic decisions made by the AHL Board on the ongoing sustainability of AHL.

1.a.ii AHL advise that they first advised organisations in 2013 of impending changes to the CCPP. In May 2014 AHL advised its intention to discontinue with its grant program and not continue with making further calls for proposals for funding in two stages – July 2014 for

Substance Use Rehabilitation (SUR) organisations, and January 2015 for non-SUR organisations. Significant engagement followed to assist organisations' preparedness for the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) application process as part of an intra-portfolio effort, and to explore alternative funding sources.

1.a.iii.

Hostels formerly funded under CCPP

There were 29 hostels funded under the CCPP in 2013-14. Through the IAS, 23 of these have been approved for interim funding until 30 June 2015.

18 will receive funding from 1 July 2015 and a list of these is provided in PM144. Ten will not receive funding after 30 June 2015 under the IAS (table below). One closed in October 2014, the Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation's Boomerang Hostel.

| Hostel | Organisation |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Bunura Maya | Bloodwood Tree Association Incorporated |
| CAPS Coolgardie | Christian Aboriginal Parent - directed School Inc |
| Clontarf Aboriginal College | Clontarf Aboriginal College |
| Wongutha CAPS | Wongutha Christian Aboriginal Parent-Directed Schools |
| Bowman Johnson | Murri Watch Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation |
| Gamba Lodge | Murrumba Aboriginal Housing Company |
| Joyce Wilding | One People of Australia League (OPAL) |
| Mayaroo | Mayaroo Incorporated (formally run by Black Creek Aboriginal Corporation) |
| Sheraton House | Ballina Centacare Accommodation Program |
| Worawa College | Worawa Aboriginal College Incorporated |

2. The response to this question is provided in PM76.

3. AHL advise that the AHL Board made the decision to phase out its CCPP grant program in February 2014. Ceasing the CCPP was part of strategic decisions made by the AHL Board on the ongoing sustainability of AHL.