

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: Indigenous Advancement Strategy costs

Senator: Senator Rachel Siewert

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Question:

Senator SIEWERT: Could you tell me the contract cost for Mosaic and for Ernst & Young?

Ms Black: I can. Mosaic was \$65,346.22. We still have an open contract with Ernst & Young so we may not expend the full amount. Our probity advice is on an as-needs basis. The current contract value is \$1.5 million but we may not, as I said, use that entire amount.

Senator SIEWERT: I understand what you have just said about probity, but how much have you spent to date?

Ms Black: On probity?

Senator SIEWERT: No, overall.

Ms Black: I might need to take that on notice. My guess would be about \$1 million to \$1.2 million. I do not want to mislead you so I would prefer to take that on notice.

Senator McLUCAS: This will have to happen on notice as well. What is the total cost of undertaking the whole IAS administration process?

Ms Carroll: We will see what we can provide for you on notice.

Ms Black: We did it as business as usual for our staff as a key part of their role but we will take that on notice.

Answer:

As part of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS), to date the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has spent \$1,513,600 on Ernst & Young. This includes four contracts that ceased in December 2014 valued at \$646,000 for external probity advice, logistics and database development and two current contracts to the value of \$867,600 for specialist services to support the operation of the grant funding round.

To date the total cost of undertaking the IAS administration process is \$1,759,622. This includes specialist services to support the operation of the grant funding round; contract staff to assist with data entry; and advertising costs. As the assessment of applications for funding is part of the regular business of the Department, there is no additional impact on internal staffing costs.