

**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 Funding

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

**Question reference number:** 68

**Type of question:** FPA Friday 27 February 2015, pages 38-39

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Senator SIEWERT: The total, through that process, is the \$2.3 billion still the amount that will be allocated?

Ms Carroll: It has been reduced from the \$2.3 billion already because we did the contract extensions for the six months. The funding was available so we would have expected that to occur because of some of those existing service providers. I think it is about \$2 billion now. Obviously, through the process with the minister, we will be looking at what is decided out of that \$2 billion because we need to leave some available for the demand-driven and for some of the gaps that we just spoke about before. We need to think about how much needs to be put aside.

Senator SIEWERT: I understand that. Do you have a nominal allocation against those two provisions?

Mr Eccles: Not at this stage. That is something that the minister will consider when we put our recommendations forward.

Senator McLUCAS: I do not understand the process. You will make a series of recommendations to the minister that will cost a certain amount of money.

Mr Eccles: Yes, but we are in the process of—

Senator McLUCAS: You do not have a notional figure for that yet?

Mr Eccles: We have not finished that piece of work yet. We are finishing that in the next few days and we will get that to the minister for his consideration, so it is probably not appropriate for us to go into that level of detail about the advice that we will be providing to the minister.

Senator McLUCAS: We would know now what the demand-driven ones will cost?

Mr Eccles: Broadly, yes.

Senator McLUCAS: How much is that?

Ms Croft: We would have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

At the time of the Estimates hearing, the outcomes of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) open grant funding round had not yet been announced. The Department of the Prime

Minister and Cabinet advised that, of the \$4.9 billion allocated for the IAS, there was approximately \$2 billion available for all grant funding over the forward estimates.

On 4 March 2015, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs announced the outcomes of the IAS grant funding round, totalling approximately \$860 million of potential funding commitments. The remaining \$1.1 billion is available for funding via a range of mechanisms including future rounds, direct source funding and demand driven projects.

Demand driven applications involve projects which arise at a point in time, and for which an opportunity will be lost should funding not be made available. Therefore it is not possible to identify how much of the funding pool should be earmarked for demand driven applications.