

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Remote Housing Strategy

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question reference number: 226

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 April 2017

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. Did the establishment of the RHS carry over the construction and upgrade targets of NPARIH?
If not, please provide a jurisdiction by jurisdiction reconciliation.
2. Have all states and territories met all the relevant NPARIH targets which would have applied had NPARIH been continued?
3. Have all states and Territories met all relevant targets since the establishment of the Remote Housing Strategy?
If not, please provide details.
4. Does the Remote Housing Strategy provide for states and territories who fail to meet targets to be financially penalised?
If not, why not?
5. Has the Minister applied any financial penalties to states or territories which did not meet their targets?
If not, why not?
If so, please provide details?
6. Did the previous Minister, Jenny Macklin, apply penalties against non-performing states and territories under NPARIH?
If so, please provide details?
7. Has the Western Australian Government agreed to the proposed RHS arrangements?
If so, when did this occur?
If not, are funds continuing to flow to WA?
What is the reason for the delay?

8. What is the status of the review of remote housing announced by the Minister late last year?
Please provide details of the consultations undertaken to date, and any provisional findings.
9. Is it proposed that the Committee will release a discussion paper or provisional draft of its findings?
If so, when will that occur?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. Yes. See response to PM83, Additional Estimates 2016-2017
4. No. As the agreement is in the last two years, any penalties applied could not be effectively re-allocated across the programme. As per the standard National Partnership provisions, funding is linked to the achievement of targeted milestones.
5. No. In the first activity period, all states and territories met their milestones.
6. Yes. As part of NPARIH's Competitive Bids Process, if a jurisdiction failed to meet its annual capital works target, the Commonwealth Government could choose to apply a penalty of up to 25 per cent of that jurisdiction's capital works funding and allocate it to another jurisdiction. The penalty process was applied in 2010-11 to Queensland and South Australia and the funding redistributed to Western Australia.
7. Western Australia accepted the Commonwealth's Remote Housing Strategy offer in December 2016. Agreement was delayed due to negotiations around value for money. An offer was made to Western Australia in May 2016.
8. See response to PM82, Additional Estimates 2016-2017.
9. No.