

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: IAS

Senator: Senator Rachel Siewert

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Question:

Senator SIEWERT: I still do not understand what happened, but we have time constraints. We can go into more detail later, but the most important thing now is to find out who the money is going to and what services are being funded. If you have provided this publicly, I apologise: I could not find it. Ms Black, when you answered the question before about the criteria, was that the criteria that was used for the funding decision-making process?

Ms Black: I guess it was in the application kit—we went to very specific criteria for funding. Certainly when our assessment panels, our grant selection committee and our original assessment teams looked at it, they were looking at it from a front-line service delivery perspective. That was when we mapped services currently in an area and regional data, so we could inform ourselves of what were critical services in those areas.

Senator SIEWERT: That were gaps.

Ms Black: Yes.

Senator SIEWERT: I might get you to take that criteria on notice, because I know we are going to run short of time.

Answer:

In identifying gaps, there were three primary sources:

- individual service providers the Department was negotiating with;
- regional managers based on their knowledge of the community; and
- in some cases, individuals or organisations that came forward to the Department.

The Department defined it was a gap by considering:

- was there previously a frontline service;
- was there a continuing need for the frontline service;
- whether people would lack a frontline service; and
- did the service align with the priorities of the IAS.