

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: Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians

Senator: Senator Corey Bernardi

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Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

The 2012-13 Budget allocated \$10 million for community support regarding the constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians (2012-13 Budget Paper No. 2, p.137).

1. Why was the figure of \$10 million chosen?
2. What processes did decision-makers go through to determine that this amount was an appropriate contribution for this initiative?
3. How much of this \$10 million has been spent to date?

Please provide a breakdown (for each financial year) as to exactly what the funding has been spent on, such as television or print advertisements, website maintenance etc

4. Were there any conditions attached to this \$10 million, in terms of the purpose of the funding and what it was allowed to be spent on or not spent on?

If so, please provide details of what these conditions were.

If not, how does the Department ensure that the funding is being spent on the initiative in an appropriate manner?

5. How will the remaining funding be allocated in the coming financial years?
6. Has the Recognise campaign, through any of its affiliated groups or organisers, approached the Commonwealth for additional funds?

If so, what financial amounts were asked for, who asked for them and when?

7. Has any further financial contribution been made by the Commonwealth Government since the initial funding of \$10 million?

If so, what does this contribution amount to?

8. Which group, agency, organisation or department is responsible for spending this Commonwealth funding?

2012-13 Budget Paper No 2 (p. 137) states that:

“This work will be led by Reconciliation Australia, supported by a reference group of business and community groups, the Australian Human Rights Commission and the National Congress of Australia’s First People and members of the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians.”

9. Are all of the above groups still active in the Recognise campaign?

How much Commonwealth funding is allocated to each of the above groups, or any other group involved in the campaign?

Answer:

1. The figure of \$10 million resulted from the 2012-13 Budget process.
2. The 2012-13 Budget processes determined the funding amount – see answer 3 also.
3. The \$10 million has been fully expended through funding for Reconciliation Australia's 'Recognise' campaign. The funding was spent on a range of activities as agreed by the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation Australia. These activities are administrative costs and salaries, research, legal workshops, administration of the reference group, delivery of the Journey to Recognition, Tasmanians for Recognition and Recognise This!, partnerships with QANTAS and other corporate partners, the AFL Indigenous Round, maintenance of website and social media platforms, and promotional material.
4. The funding agreement with Reconciliation Australia was entered into in 2012; for this reason the May 2011 Funding Agreement Terms and Conditions of the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs govern the funding agreement. The Terms and Conditions can be accessed at https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/05_2012/terms_conditions_0.pdf
5. The \$10 million funding has been fully expended.
6. The Department engages with a wide range of organisations, which may request funding. The Department is unable to provide detail of these discussions with organisations until a funding agreement is entered into. The Department will then report the details of the funding agreement as required under the Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines. The Department currently only funds Reconciliation Australia for the 'Recognise' campaign.
7. A further \$10.73 million has been provided since 2012-13 to Reconciliation Australia for the 'Recognise' campaign to build public awareness of Indigenous constitutional recognition.
8. Reconciliation Australia is responsible for spending this Commonwealth funding.
9. Recognise continues to be supported by a reference group of business and community groups including the Australian Human Rights Commission and the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples.