

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 Dean Smith

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Question:

Senator SMITH: Just to be clear: is it true that the department is aiming for a 12 June signature date on the IDCP contracts?

Mr Eccles: I will need to check. I think we are looking to get some people to sign up as soon as possible. RJCP providers are currently under contract. Some of them go out for several years. When the program was designed, I think they entered into three-year contracts. We are talking to them about changing their contracts. As I mentioned in response to some of Senator Siewert's inquiries, we are confident that we are going to get some of those change of contracts in the very near future. But I am not sure if there is a date of 12 June—

Mr Bulman: We have spoken to some of the providers and said that that would be the ideal date for processing et cetera, but we have left it flexible. We understand that in some areas that is not possible because of board meetings et cetera, and we can accommodate that.

Senator SMITH: That is exactly the point that has been raised with me—that the 12 June date does not allow enough flexibility to go through the necessary internal governance processes for some. Thanks very much.

Answer:

Over the course of June 2015, the Department worked with providers to execute variations to their funding agreements to implement the Government's reforms to the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme (RJCP) which took effect from 1 July 2015. As at 1 July 2015, providers from 59 out of the 60 RJCP regions had agreed to and signed funding agreement variations.

The Department has outlined which organisations will provide RJCP services after 1 July 2015 in PM 183.