

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: Aboriginal Benefits Account

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Question reference number: 312

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

When is the next meeting of the Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee?

- a. Has the Minister or the department had any discussions regarding the future of the Committee? If so, on what date(s) were these discussions and who was involved in them?
- b. Can the Minister guarantee that the Committee will continue to advise the Minister the Minister on ABA payments for projects that will benefit Aboriginal people living in the Northern Territory?

Answer:

The next meeting of the Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee is expected to be held in November/December 2015.

- a. Reforms to the composition of the Committee were discussed with the Committee at meetings in March 2014, May 2014, March 2015 and April 2015. The Minister attended the March 2014 and April 2015 Committee meetings.
- b. Section 65 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* requires an Advisory Committee to be established to advise the Minister on making payments from the Aboriginals Benefit Account under Section 64(4). This Committee must include Aboriginal people living in the Northern Territory elected by each Land Council.