

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**SENATE ESTIMATES SESSION**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Financial Wellbeing Service Centre

**Senator:** Senator Siewert

**Question reference number:** 242

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 17 January 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

In 2011, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs engaged a consultant (Bain Business Management) to undertake a scoping study into the establishment of a Financial Wellbeing Service Centre on the APY Lands. The value of this contract was approximately \$50,000.

Can you provide this Committee with a copy of the final report of the Scoping Study that the consultant Bain Business Management prepared in 2011 concerning a Financial Wellbeing Service Centre on the APY Lands?

What were the key findings and recommendations of the Scoping Study?

Can you provide this Committee with an outline of the actions taken by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in response to those findings and recommendations?

**Answer:**

A copy of the requested report has been provided as an attachment.

The scoping study made twelve recommendations to inform the implementation of a financial wellbeing service in Amata and Mimili. These can be found on page 8 of the report.

In response to this study the previous Australian Government provided three year funding (2011-12 to 2013-14) of \$1.22 million for the establishment and operation of a Financial Wellbeing Service in the APY Lands. In 2011-12 an additional \$90,000 was provided for baseline data collection and development of an online client data collection and case management tool. Additionally, the previous Australian Government provided \$1.5 million to fund a mobile financial literacy education unit, MoneyMob Talkabout, on the APY Lands from 2011-12 to 2013-14. Matrix on Board is funded to deliver these services on the APY Lands and has offices in Amata, Mimili and Pukatja (Ernabella).

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The Scoping Study also highlighted the need for income management on the APY Lands, a policy which was subsequently announced on 7 December 2012. All people on the APY Lands, including those participating in income management are able to access free financial counselling and money management services.

The Australian Government is continuing to work with the South Australian Government to address the recommendations from this Scoping Study.