

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 20-24 October 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Indigenous Advancement Strategy

Senator: Senator Rachel Siewert

Question reference number: 152

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 December 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

The new incorporation requirements under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy require an organisation in receipt of \$500,000 funding or more to incorporate under ORIC or ASIC. This provision removes the sovereign right of a board to choose its registering body and discriminates between organisations.

1. Will the Government reconsider its position of compulsory incorporation?
2. How can the department ensure ORIC will provide effective and appropriate support to organisations?
3. Can the department provide detail of the assessment process?
4. Can the Department outline the determinations of merit/criteria being used in the Indigenous Advancement Strategy assessment process?
5. How can the Government ensure Aboriginal organisations are considered equally in this process?
6. How many applications were received?
7. Please provide a breakdown of number of applications against each funding stream.

Answer:

1. The Government is committed to ensuring that Indigenous Australians receive the highest quality of services available. Ensuring strong governance and accountability in organisations receiving funding for these purposes is an important step in achieving this. This policy is designed to ensure that organisations receiving significant funding maintain high standards of governance. These requirements are consistent with the Australian Government's responsibilities in grant management under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2014* and the Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines.

2. The Registrar of Indigenous Corporations is an independent statutory office holder appointed by the Minister of Indigenous Affairs to administer the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet will continue to work with the Registrar and the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations to provide effective and appropriate support as part of a broader approach to effective grants administration and strengthening the capability of Indigenous organisations.
 3. The assessment process for the IAS Grant Funding Round is outlined in Section 23 of the IAS Grants Application Kit, which can be found at www.dpmc.gov.au/indigenous_affairs/ias/funding.
 4. The criteria are detailed in Section 24 of the IAS Application Kit, which can be found at www.dpmc.gov.au/indigenous_affairs/ias/funding.
 5. One of the criteria against which applications are assessed includes how organisations will involve Indigenous communities in the development and delivery of projects, and employ Indigenous Australians. Indigenous organisations are likely to be well placed in this regard.
- 6-7. Refer to PM 156.