

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 2: Indigenous
Topic: IAS process

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

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Question:

Senator McLUCAS: Sorry, I framed my question poorly. Have certain organisations that provide services been told that they will get continued funding and, while they are going through this administrative process, can be assured they will receive funding for that service into the future?

Ms Croft: No—apart from where we have already talked at previous estimates about providing contract extensions for current providers for this financial year as part of the transition to the new arrangements and to the extent there are a couple of things identified in the application kit, and taking into account what Ms Carroll said about there being other forms outside of the grant funding round.

Senator McLUCAS: I am thinking of organisations such as Reconciliation Australia. Do they have to go into a round of funding to—

Senator Scullion: Perhaps we can take the question on notice. I understand the nature of the organisations you are talking about. I certainly wrote to AIATSIS telling them they would not be subjected to competitive grants. That was simply because we did not think there was an existing organisation that could take their role. I will take the question on notice. I understand the nature of the question.

Answer:

Under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS), some organisations have existing long-term contracts. In addition, some activities have not been included in the round (as detailed in Part B of the IAS Application Kit). Funding has also been set aside for demand driven or urgent or emerging priorities. Taking this into account, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies is the only other organisation that has been advised that they will have continued funding.