

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 19-23 October 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous

Topic: Cooperative, mutual and member-owned firms

Senator: Senator Nick Xenophon

Question reference number: 159

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

How have Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Coops sought to remain as Coops and still receive funding under the CIASG?

Answer:

A cooperative may apply for an exemption from the incorporation requirements to remain as a cooperative. Further information on the exemption policy is provided in the response to Question 8.

As at 10 November 2015, the Department has received applications from two cooperatives requesting an exemption from the incorporation requirements.

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cooperatives will receive less than the \$500,000 (GST exclusive) grant funding threshold in all financial years and do not have to incorporate under Commonwealth legislation.