

**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:** Demand-driven grants

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

**Question reference number:** 278

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

- a) Is the Minister required to write to the Minister for Finance if he is not in agreement with a recommendation of his Department in relation to an application under the demand-driven process, as was required for the 2014 competitive round?
- b) Has the Minister agreed with all departmental recommendations in respect of demand-driven projects?

**Answer:**

- a) Under the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines section 4.13(a), Ministers (including Senators) must report annually to the Finance Minister on all instances where they have decided to approve a particular grant which the relevant official has recommended to be rejected. The report must include a brief statement of reasons (i.e. the basis of the approval for each grant). The report must be provided to the Finance Minister by 31 March each year for the preceding calendar year.
- b) No. There have been three instances in respect of demand-driven projects where the Minister has not agreed with the recommendation of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.