

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous

Topic: Program funding

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator Scullion: The Commonwealth contribution is in a number of programmes. I identified a number of the programmes that we are doing now. I identified that in this statement, and, if you go on, there are a number of line items. All of those funds have actually been budgeted for and are in fact identified over the forward estimates.

Senator SIEWERT: This includes funding for youth leadership et cetera. What is the funding, for example, for the mandatory custody notification offering funding support to assist them to set this up so we have a consistent national approach?

Senator Scullion: That is only going to be funded if somebody actually does the right thing and says, 'Yes, Minister, I am happy to accept your offer of funding.' Yes, if states and territories do—and I really hope that they do accept this very generous offer—we have budgeted for that, but I had to budget that before I made the offer.

Senator SIEWERT: How much have you budgeted and which programme is it coming out of?

Ms Hefren-Webb: It would be out of the safety and wellbeing programme—programme 2.3. I do not have the figure for the exact costing, but we will have made provision in the forward estimates for that.

Senator SIEWERT: For the programme itself?

Ms Hefren-Webb: For the cost of a custody notification service—as the minister said, before the offer was made. So we have made provision. As you know, the IAS operates as a flexible funding pool, but we have put a notional provision in there and we will see how the states respond and, to the extent they respond, we will fund that activity.

Senator SIEWERT: Can you take on notice to tell me how much that is.

Ms Hefren-Webb: Absolutely.

Answer:

Up to \$8 million over three years has been provisioned under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy from the Safety & Wellbeing Programme to support Custody Notification Services (CNS) in states and territories. This provision is based on the cost of the New South Wales CNS, with funding to be considered on a case-by-case basis with each jurisdiction.

CNS notional funding allocation per financial year:

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
\$2m	\$3m	\$3m