

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/Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous

Topic: 154: Reporting Requirements

Senator: Dodson, Patrick

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Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

In 2014-15 the ORIC yearbook cites more than 97% of corporations complied with their reporting requirements under the act – the highest on record and the 6th consecutive year reporting compliance exceeded 90%. How was this outcome achieved?

Answer:

The level of reporting compliance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations has increased markedly from 52 per cent in 2005/06 to 97 per cent in 2014/15. This has been achieved through public awareness and education programs supported by an effective prosecution program.

The Registrar of Indigenous Corporations conducts an annual communication and support program to assist corporations to meet their reporting obligations. This includes:

- reminders provided through email, letter and/or telephone and in advertisements in a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander newspaper (Koori Mail)
- notices and messages on the Registrar's website, www.oric.gov.au and in the Registrar's publications
- face-to-face visits by the Registrar's staff, particularly to corporations in remote locations, to assist in the completion of reports as well as building capacity for the future
- providing exemptions and extensions of time to corporations that have genuine reasons for not meeting their reporting obligations.

Each year the Registrar also refers a small number of corporations that do not meet their reporting obligations to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions for prosecution.