

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: Government Framework – Indigenous Affairs

Senator: Dodson, Patrick

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Question:

What are the relevant portfolios outside PM&C that have responsibility for programmes focussed on delivering outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and what formal relationship do those departments have with Dept. PM&C?

Answer:

While most Indigenous-specific programmes were transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in 2013 to improve outcomes and reduce inefficiency, the majority of Commonwealth expenditure on Indigenous Australians is delivered through mainstream programmes and services.

The 2016-17 Portfolio Budget Statements identify the following portfolios with programmes focussed on delivering outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

- Attorney-General's Department
- Department of Communications and the Arts
- Defence Portfolio
- The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in the Department of Education and Training
- Department of Health
- Department of Social Services

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet works collaboratively with all relevant Commonwealth counterparts. These relationships are not always bound by formal mechanisms but also informal mechanisms such as regular engagement across Government agencies.

Additionally, in 2016 the Government established the Indigenous Policy Committee of Cabinet which ensures a whole of government approach to Indigenous policy decision making and programme implementation.