

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: Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council

Senator: Dodson, Patrick

Question reference number: 163

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

Number of pages: 3

Question:

Can you please provide details about the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council and detail the process that was followed in order to put this Council together and what its responsibilities are?

- a. How were the members selected?
- b. Details of any changes to the membership of the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory council.
- c. Can you provide details of the meetings that have taken place of this group?
- d. How often does it meet?
- e. Has the Minister for Indigenous Affairs attended all these meetings?
- f. Who chairs these meetings??
- g. What processes do they follow?
- h. What are the intended outcomes?
- i. Is this Committee meeting its targets?
- j. What is the tenure of the Council and when does it expire?
- k. Are the members informed of the tenure?
- l. What formal relation does this organisation have with the Minister for Indigenous Affairs?
- m. What level of interaction does the Minister for Indigenous Affairs have with the council on a practical basis?

Answer:

- a.) Members of the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council (the Council) were selected by the former Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, following a public expression of interest.
- b.) Two vacancies were created by the resignations of Ms Gail Kelly (effective 9 January 2015) and Professor Peter Shergold (effective 23 September 2015). With the exception of Ms Kelly and Professor Shergold's resignations, Council membership has remained unchanged.

c.) Since its establishment, the Council has met a total of 13 times.

Meeting Date	Location
5 December 2013	Canberra
13 February 2014	Canberra
2 April 2014	Sydney
29 May 2014	Canberra
25 June 2014	Canberra
28 August 2014	Canberra
17 September 2014	Arnhem Land
23 October 2014	Canberra
12 February 2015	Canberra
26-28 May 2015	Sydney and Canberra
24 August 2015	Torres Strait
14 October 2015	Canberra
10-11 February 2016	Canberra

d.) Full Council has met 13 times since December 2013. In addition to attending Council meetings, members have participated in 51 Working Group meetings:

- Education: four members, 17 meetings
- Community safety: five members, 19 meetings
- Employment: six members, 15 meetings.

e.) Yes, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, has attended each meeting of the Council.

f.) The Chair of the Council, Mr Warren Mundine AO, chairs the meetings.

g.) The process for holding Council meetings is as follows:

- agenda is developed and agreed by the Chair and Deputy Chair
- meeting invitation is extended to Council members, relevant ministers, guest speakers and relevant Commonwealth staff
- agenda papers are developed and circulated to Council members
- updates by Commonwealth staff and invited guest speakers on key policy and program issues are given
- Council members declare potential conflicts of interest at each meeting

- communiqué is developed following the meeting
 - minutes are developed and circulated to Council members, the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, and Minister for Indigenous Affairs' Offices and relevant Commonwealth staff
- h.) The Council is required to provide advice to Government on emerging policy and implementation issues relating to Indigenous affairs; engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and other individuals and organisations, as relevant to the Government's agenda; provide advice on specific policy and programme effectiveness; and report annually to the Government on its activities, via letter to the Prime Minister.
- i.) Yes.
- j.) Council members are appointed for a period of three years from 12 November 2016. Council members' appointments expire on 11 November 2016.
- k.) Yes.
- l.) The Council provides advice to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs during Council meetings.
- m.) The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, meets regularly with the Council and meets with individual members as required.