

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: Indigenous Advancement Strategy

Senator: Dodson, Patrick

Question reference number: 171

Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

In August of this year, following the Minister's 'workshop' with signatories to the Redfern Statement, the Minister made the following claim:

"Claims that there had been a \$500 million cut in the Indigenous Affairs portfolio are simply false and those making these statements know that the savings from Indigenous Affairs programmes were less than half that figure with significant funds reinvested in new initiatives like the successful Remote School Attendance Strategy."

Can you please provide detail about which measures in the recent budget indicate new investment in Indigenous Affairs?

Answer:

The 2016-17 Budget announced the following new investments in Indigenous Affairs:

- \$65 million for a Concessional Loan to the Indigenous Land Corporation; and
- \$14.6 million over two years towards Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

This is on top of earlier reinvestment as outlined in response to PM172 from Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016-17.

In 2014-15 the Government reinvested \$115.7 million into Indigenous Affairs.

The \$115.7 million reinvestment contributed to the following measures:

- \$54.1 million for the Permanent Police Presence in the Northern Territory measure
- \$13.4 million for the Clontarf Foundation Academy – expansion measure
- \$2.5 million for the Community Engagement Police Officers in the Northern Territory measure

- \$3.8 million for the Support for the Northern Territory Child Abuse Taskforce (CAT) continuation measure
- \$46.3 million for the Municipal & Essential Services – transition arrangements
- \$10.6 million for the Outback Power measure

Further detail on these investments can be found at http://budget.gov.au/2016-17/content/bp2/html/bp2_expense-20.htm.