

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: Patrick Dodson

Question reference number: 180

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

How many of the grants provided under each stream of the IAS went to Indigenous controlled organisations?

Does the Government have a policy about prioritising Indigenous lead organisations? If so please provide details.

Answer:

Under each of the five programme streams, nearly half or more of the funding has been provided to Indigenous organisations, apart from the Children and Schooling programme (for which a significant portion of funding is provided to established educational institutions funded to address the needs of Indigenous children and students, or to employ Indigenous staff).

Under the IAS, service gaps and community need are able to be considered in more detail as Government has a better understanding of existing funding provided to the community.

The 2016 IAS Guidelines include the introduction of the Community Led grants process which allows Indigenous communities and providers to apply at any time for funding to address emerging opportunities or community need.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has a regional network of offices across Australia which is continually engaging with communities and organisations. From this engagement, the network continues to support and assist communities identify their needs, aspirations and goals.

The regional network works in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other stakeholders to support the development and implementation of tailored innovative local solutions to the challenges facing Indigenous Australians and Indigenous communities. The 2016 IAS Grant Guidelines support these partnerships, particularly through the Community Led Grants process.

The Government's Indigenous Procurement Policy has already seen contracts with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned businesses increase from around \$6 million in 2012-13, to over \$284 million in 2015-16, its first year of operation.

Additionally, the Government is implementing a range of programmes aiming to further strengthen the capability of Indigenous organisations so that they are well placed to gain funding under the IAS. The Government has committed to providing:

- a \$115 million Indigenous Entrepreneurs Package comprising a \$90 million Indigenous Entrepreneurs Fund to assist regional and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to get into business;
- \$23.1 million to refocus existing Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) funding; and
- \$1.9 million to develop an Indigenous Business Sector Strategy.