

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: 183

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 outline what data is collected under each of the streams below that is used by the Department to measure progress, the frequency with which it is collected and the level (i.e. community, region, state etc).

Jobs, Land and Economy

- a. What measures are being used to determine progress under this stream?
- b. What are the key targets?
- c. What data is being collected? With what frequency and at what level (i.e. community, regional, state).
- d. Are they being met?

Children and Schooling

- e. What measures are being used to determine progress under this stream?
- f. What are the key targets?
- g. What data is being collected? With what frequency and at what level (i.e. community, regional, state).
- h. Are they being met?

Safety and Wellbeing

- i. What measures are being used to determine progress under this stream?
- j. What are the key targets?
- k. What data is being collected? With what frequency and at what level (i.e. community, regional, state).
- l. Are they being met?

Culture and Capability

- m. What measures are being used to determine progress under this stream?
- n. What are the key targets?
- o. What data is being collected? With what frequency and at what level (i.e. community, regional, state).

p. Are they being met?

Remote Australia Strategies

q. What measures are being used to determine progress under this stream?

r. What are the key targets?

s. What data is being collected? With what frequency and at what level (i.e. community, regional, state).

t. Are they being met?

Answer:

The Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) outcomes, deliverables and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the five IAS programmes are shown in the Annual Report, available on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's (PM&C) website at <https://www.dpmc.gov.au/resource-centre/pmc/departement-prime-minister-and-cabinet-annual-report-2015-16>.

The Annual Report includes PM&C's annual performance statement, which outlines the delivery of the PM&C outcome and programme framework.

The consolidation of Indigenous programmes into PM&C is enabling a better evidence base for the allocation of grants. The IAS Evidence, Evaluation and Performance Improvement Strategy is identifying key gaps in the evidence base for the IAS with a strong focus on quantitative evidence.

The overall approach to evaluation of the IAS is built on determining what needs to be evaluated and establishing the most suitable approach to obtaining rigorous data, given the diverse range of activities involved. For example, for the Community Development Employment Programme, we are making more use of quantitative data, analysing longer term trends in outcomes. We also analyse weekly trends in data on school attendance for schools included in the Remote School Attendance Strategy and we have used control groups to compare outcomes for participants and non-participants in order to help estimate whether it is making a difference.

The IAS' evaluation approach also involves working with communities to ensure programmes and activities are delivering for the specific needs of individual communities.

We are carefully managing our evaluation effort, in order to strategically evaluate specific activities under each programme, focusing on where the investment is substantial or the potential benefit can be clearly measured. A combination of approaches to evaluation is being used such as:

- Measuring direct net effects from specific activities or interventions to establish whether they change behaviour in local contexts, using matched administrative data.
- Assessing shared outcomes by region or location to see if the combined activities in a location coincide with change in outcomes.
- Examining impact by collecting people's perception of change in behaviour or attitudes, or improvements to organisational capability or community functioning, to help interpret outcome data.

Analysis of reported KPI information across projects contributes to PM&C's understanding of the overall performance of IAS programmes. It will also be used to better inform IAS policy and to ultimately improve outcomes in community in regional and remote Australia.

This KPI data is collected through performance reports submitted against each project, generally on a six-monthly basis. All organisations have two mandatory KPIs:

- M1 - number and proportion of Indigenous people employed in delivery of the project
- M2 - extent of compliance with Project Agreement terms and conditions (delivery as expected).

PM&C's Portfolio Budget Statements for 2016-17 include the mandatory KPI – *M2: Extent of compliance with Project Agreement terms and conditions (delivery as expected)* as a performance target for each of the five IAS programmes. The specific target is that between 70 and 90 per cent of funded projects for the relevant programme meet the KPI by 2017.

Additional KPIs are selected from a menu of KPIs specific to each IAS programme, developed by PM&C to best capture project performance.