

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates – 2016-17**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Indigenous Business Australia  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 2; Indigenous  
**Topic:** Proposed Amalgamation of IBA and ILC

**Senator:** Siewert

**Question reference number:** 201

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

1. Has a feasibility study been undertaken in relation to any proposal to amalgamate the administration of the IBA and the ILC?
  - If so, please provide a copy.
2. If any form of amalgamation has commenced, what procedures have been put in place to protect commercial in confidence information for ILC and IBA?
  - Has legal advice been sought on these aspects of the operations?
  - If so, please provide a copy.
3. Are any amendments to the ILC's and IBA's legislation proposed to accommodate an amalgamation?
4. Are there plans for any other IBA and ILC offices (besides the Canberra offices) to be co-located?
  - If so, where?
  - What are the all the costs involved, including penalties for foregone lease fees?
  - What are the costs of the co-location of the Canberra offices of IBA and ILC?
5. Is it the case that the Acting CEO of the IBA has been attending ILC Board meetings?
  - If yes, please list the meetings they attended.
  - Please explain the rationale for this decision.
6. Have all current IBA and ILC Board members lodged the relevant annual conflict of interest and interests declarations?
  - If not, why not?
  - If not, which Board members have yet to comply?
7. Have any members of the ILC or IBA Board resigned during the last 3 years?
  - If so, when and what were the reasons?

**Answer:**

1. There is no proposal to amalgamate the administration of IBA and the ILC.

The IBA Board has been independently considering options to become more efficient in the way it supports program delivery in order to maximise resources for the benefit of Indigenous Australians.

As part of these considerations and given our strong working relationship, the IBA and ILC Boards commissioned a joint project to consider and develop a shared common corporate services model that would provide cost efficiencies and an increased level of capability to both organisations in the provision of corporate services.

2. Given there is no amalgamation, the functions of IBA and the ILC will remain the same and as such established information management practices will be maintained. Legal advice in regards to this aspect of operations has not been sought.
3. None that IBA is aware of. Legislative change is not required for IBA and ILC to improve the efficiency of common corporate services functions.
4. IBA and ILC offices in Perth and Adelaide will be collocated as a result of expiry of current leases and is an opportunity to improve efficiencies for both organisations, and provide better integrated support to stakeholders. The one off costs of the co-locations are approximately \$120,000 for Perth and Adelaide and \$20,000 for Canberra. As leases are expiring, no penalties are expected to be incurred.
5. IBA's Acting CEO has attended as an invited observer for part of two ILC Board meetings, 24 August 2016 and 19 October 2016. IBA and the ILC are both portfolio agencies in the Indigenous Affairs portfolio and in accordance with the PGPA Act seek to cooperate to achieve shared objectives. A strong working relationship between the two organisations is conducive to optimising outcomes for Indigenous Australians.
6. Yes.
7. Mr Glen Brennan resigned as a director of IBA on 29 April 2016.