

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: Domestic Violence in Indigenous Communities

Senator: McKenzie, Bridget

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Question:

How much has been invested in tackling domestic violence in indigenous communities?

Answer:

Under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) in 2016-17, over \$115 million has been provided to address the drivers of violence and provide support to victims in Indigenous communities. This includes:

- \$23.4 million for Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS);
- \$7.4 million for activities to reduce the impact of family violence, address perpetrator behaviour and provide support to victims;
- \$69 million for alcohol and other drug treatment services; and
- \$16 million for prisoner through care and other justice activities to prevent offending and reduce reoffending.

The \$100 million Women's Safety Package, announced on 24 September 2015, includes \$21 million for Indigenous specific activities. These are also being funded through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) and include:

- \$3 million to support Queensland police to better respond to domestic violence in remote communities (originally \$2.5 million with an additional \$500,000 provided under the IAS);
- \$1.4 million to maintain four Community Engagement Police Officers in the Northern Territory (NT) to assist NT police to build positive relationships and to focus their efforts on responding to domestic violence;
- \$3.6 million to continue and expand the Cross Border Domestic Violence Intelligence Desk to support police to protect victims and hold perpetrators to account across Western Australia, NT and South Australia borders;

- \$1.1 million to develop a targeted domestic violence module to the Australian Nurse Family Partnership Programme to support nurses to address domestic violence in their client families; and
- \$12.5 million to extend funding for four existing prisoner throughcare providers (over three years from 2016-17 to 2018-19) and expand their services to deliver rehabilitation activities to perpetrators of domestic violence to change their behaviour.

The \$100 million Third Action Plan package announced on 28 October 2016 includes \$25 million in funding for Indigenous specific activities to address family violence in Indigenous communities. This package includes funding for:

- trauma-informed therapeutic services for Indigenous children affected by family violence to break the cycle of intergenerational violence;
- services for perpetrators to encourage behaviour change and prevent future offending;
- intensive family-focused case management to address behaviours that lead to family violence; and
- increasing the capacity of FVPLS to deliver holistic, case-managed crisis support to Indigenous women and children experiencing family violence.