

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 1.7

Question No. 36

Senator Evans asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2007:

- a) Please provide a breakdown for the funding of peak organisations and respondents in native title matters.
- b) How are 'respondents' defined?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) In the period 1 July 2005 to 14 June 2007, the Native Title Respondent Funding Scheme has funded peak organisations to a total of \$6.849m out of total expenditure for respondents of \$10.019m.
- b) For the purposes of the Native Title Respondent Funding Guidelines, a 'respondent' is a person or organisation who is eligible to apply for assistance under subsection 183(1) of the *Native Title Act 1993*, which provides that:

A person who is a party, or who intends to apply to be a party, to an inquiry, mediation or proceeding related to native title may apply to the Attorney-General for the provision of assistance under this section in relation to the inquiry, mediation or proceeding.

Subsection 183(6) provides that native title claimants are not to be provided with assistance under the section 183 Scheme. Assistance for claimants is provided through Australian Government funding for Native Title Representative Bodies, which are responsible for supporting native title claimants to make applications under the Native Title Act.