

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(244) Output 3.1: Whole-of-Government Coordination of Policy Development and Service Delivery for Indigenous Australians

Senator Evans (L&C 133 and Written) asked:

Has the suggestion for a comprehensive Indigenous art development strategy, to be funded from the ABA, been progressed? Could you find out whether that has been progressed, for how much and which stakeholders are represented in terms of the funding? If it has not been progressed, why not? How were the stakeholders identified/chosen?

Answer:

Consultations have occurred with stakeholders including the Northern Territory Government about how a contribution from the ABA can best enhance the quality and production of indigenous art in the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory Government has its own strategy to support indigenous arts and one of the schedules to the Overarching Agreement on Indigenous Affairs signed by the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory commits both governments to working collaboratively to provide more support to this important industry.

A number of options have been canvassed including addressing the capital needs of remote art and craft centres. The ABA Advisory Committee considered the matter at its December 2005 meeting and it is now proposed to consider specific proposals that have been independently assessed in the course of 2006.