

F&PA Legislation Committee – 47th Parliament, Budget Estimates 2022-23 – written request for information NIAA

In advance of Budget Estimates 2022-23, Senator Barbara Pocock has requested that the NIAA provide the documents outlining the following information:

1. the design of the New Jobs Program,
2. the involvement of APONT in the design process
3. a breakdown of how the reallocated Remote Engagement Program funds will be used for the New Jobs Program, including but not limited to budget lines on community engagement, implementation, program wages, departmental costs, and evaluation.

NIAA Response:

1. the design of the New Jobs Program

The Government has committed to replace the Community Development Program (CDP) with a new program with real jobs proper wages and decent conditions, developed in partnership with First Nations people.

The new program will be informed by outcomes from consultation and trials and therefore the date and design features for the new program have not yet been finalised. Actions to progress include:

- a) **Ngaanyatjarra Lands trial**, a trial of a new program in the region, with lessons to inform design of a new program;
- b) **Trialling Pathways to Real Jobs**, announced as part of the Remote Employment Roundtable on 31 August 2022, which 45 CDP providers have opted into;
- c) **New Jobs Program Trial**, announced in the October 2022 Budget for an additional targeted pilot to create up to 200 job opportunities in remote and very remote locations with thin labour markets; and
- d) **Broader consultation** on a new program will intensify and individuals and organisations have the opportunity to provide feedback online at the remote employment page of the NIAA's website.

2. The involvement of APONT in the design process

APONT were represented at the Remote Employment Roundtable hosted by the Minister for Indigenous Australians on 31 August 2022, which was the first consultation about a new program. APONT will continue to be involved in the broader consultation process. Over coming months, NIAA will contact a range of national, state, regional and community organisations to seek their input into the design of a program to replace CDP. APONT will be invited to be part of these discussions.

3. A breakdown of how the reallocated Remote Engagement Program funds will be used for the New Jobs Program, including but not limited to budget lines on community engagement, implementation, program wages, departmental costs, and evaluation.

Savings of \$2.9 million for Services Australia and the Department of Social Services were realised for this measure, which includes partial funding redirected from the 2022–23 March Budget measure titled Remote Engagement Program (REP) for the New Jobs Program measure announced as part of the October 2022 Budget.

As part of the costing process with the Department of Finance, savings are not redirected from previous measures on a line-by-line basis towards the cost of a new measure. Instead, these were used to partially offset the overall cost of the measure.

For the overall October 2022 Budget Measure to trial a new program, NIAA costs were as follows:

- NIAA received additional departmental funding of \$2.9 million over two years;
- NIAA will also redirect existing departmental resources that were previously allocated to the REP; and
- NIAA received additional administered funding of \$0.7 million, and will absorb administered costs of \$5.5 million, which were previously allocated to REP/CDP.