

Indigenous Affairs

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Division/Agency: People Governance Parliamentary & Communication

Inquiry: (Pathways and participation opportunities for Indigenous Australians in employment and business)

Topic: Indigenous staff by classification

Proof Hansard Page: 5 (18 June 2021)

Mr Julian Leeser asked:

CHAIR: Sorry, I was just writing for a moment. Did you give us the APS classification spread, or will you provide that to us?

Mr Medland: I don't have that, but I can take that on notice.

CHAIR: Why don't you take that on notice, because it's probably granular and some of the other agencies are doing it that way too.

Mr Medland: I do have a bit of a breakdown here, which is 20 EL staff and 21 APS staff.

Answer:

The Department's breakdown of Indigenous staff by classification as at 29 June 2021 is:

25 APS

16 EL

| Classification | ATSI |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| APS4 | 7 |
| APS5 | 8 |
| APS6 | 10 |
| EL1 | 9 |
| EL2 | 7 |
| TOTAL | 41 |

Indigenous Affairs

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Division/Agency: Finance Legal & IT

Inquiry: Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs – Pathways and participation opportunities for Indigenous Australians in employment and business

Topic: Number of Indigenous companies with tenders

Proof Hansard Page: Written (18 June 2021)

Mr Julian Leaser asked:

CHAIR: I wondered if you might be able to provide us—and I'll put the other agencies on notice, too—with some information that says the number of Indigenous companies that you've got tenders with at the moment and that you had tenders with before the IPP started, the number of companies that have tendered with joint venture partners who've previously won tenders for your department and the number of new standalone businesses. I think those would be helpful figures from each of the departments to give us a give us a sense of where the impact of this policy is being felt.

Answer:

In 2019-20, the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Portfolio (the portfolio) awarded 739 contracts to Indigenous suppliers (against an IPP target of 49) to the value of \$41.132 million (against an IPP target of \$4.397 million).

In the period 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021, the portfolio awarded 348 contracts to Indigenous suppliers (against an IPP target of 52) to the value of \$16.750 million (against an IPP target of \$4.860 million).

The department and our portfolio agencies do not have records of contracts awarded to Indigenous suppliers prior to the introduction of the IPP in May 2015.

The department and our portfolio agencies do not have records of contracts awarded to Indigenous suppliers who may have entered into a joint venture arrangement with a non-Indigenous supplier.

Indigenous Affairs

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Division/Agency: Finance Legal & IT

Inquiry: Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs – Pathways and participation opportunities for Indigenous Australians in employment and business

Topic: Comparison and examples of Indigenous companies

Proof Hansard Page: Written (18 June 2021)

Mr Julian Leaser asked:

CHAIR: Thank you. I appreciate that. I want to come to some of the other questions you've been told about here. I want to get a qualitative sense of what Indigenous companies are offering you that non-Indigenous companies are not. Is there any substantial difference? How are they doing their roles differently? I'd like to hear from each agency. We'll start in reverse order and start with Infrastructure.

Mr Medland: I don't think we've specifically undertaken an analysis like that. Really, it's about promoting the policy and then ensuring people are capable of using it. I think certainly some of the streamlining within the policy around the mandatory set-aside makes it a lot easier to get those sort of small- to mid-tier procurements across the line. Really, irrespective of whether it's an Indigenous supplier or a non-Indigenous supplier, it's about demonstrating value for money. Factoring in the additional support that it provides to Indigenous communities is a factor, but I'm not sure it's a primary factor.

...

CHAIR: I will ask all the departments to take this on notice. We've had a couple of examples. Could we get some more examples from agencies to help us highlight some of the work you are doing, so we can provide more colour in our report, which would be very helpful.

Answer:

The majority of services procured by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the department) from Indigenous suppliers are services that are also provided by non-Indigenous suppliers. The top categories of services engaged by the department from Indigenous suppliers over the period 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2021 by value relate to recruitment (20%), management advisory services (17%), training and education (10%) and catering (9%).

Where the department's work crosses into regional and remote Australia - directly impacting Indigenous peoples and communities - developing commercial relationships with Indigenous businesses and organisations can actively assist the department to improve the services we deliver. For example, the department has a contract with Northern Territory Air Services for the provision of air transport services to remote Indigenous areas of Australia under the Remote Air Services Subsidy (RASS) Scheme (AusTender reference CN3697606). Services include the carriage of passengers and goods such as educational materials, medicines, fresh foods and other urgent supplies to communities in remote and isolated areas of Australia. With road access to many communities often cut for several months during the wet season, this regular air service often offers the only reliable means of transport and is considered a critical service for the local community.

In regional and remote communities, Indigenous businesses are often smaller in size and as such can offer a service which is more personal and tailored to the individual needs of a community.

The department has contracted Murawin Pty Ltd to undertake consultation on a potential Aboriginal cultural heritage Keeping Place for the new Western Sydney Airport, known as the Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (AusTender reference CN3732889). A Keeping Place would provide for secure above-ground storage of Aboriginal artefacts and enable future access for cultural purposes, interpretation or research. The consultation process involved Murawin leading engagement with local Aboriginal stakeholders, government and non-government representatives and other relevant stakeholders on what a Keeping Place may look like, who could be involved and where it may be located – on or off the Airport Site. The involvement of Murawin has ensured a sensitive and inclusive community engagement process to enable all voices to be heard.