

Department of Families Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
HoRSCATSIA INQUIRY INTO LANGUAGE LEARNING IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

- **Question 1 - What is the progress on the National Indigenous Interpreter Framework?**

FaHCSIA is working across governments to develop the National Indigenous Interpreters Framework (the Framework).

At the April 2012 meeting of the Working Group on Indigenous Reform, state and territory government officials considered a draft Framework and agreed to work with FaHCSIA to further develop the Framework. A stakeholder Reference Group is supporting governments to develop the Framework.

- **Question 2 - How many and where are Indigenous Engagement Officers across Australia?**

As at 28 June 2012, FaHCSIA employed 43 Indigenous Engagement Officers across Australia.

30 Indigenous Engagement Officers are located in priority communities under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery. These positions are supporting the delivery of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery in those locations. In addition to the Indigenous Engagement Officers in the Remote Service Delivery priority communities, in the Northern Territory there are 13 more Indigenous Engagement Officers located in communities. These positions support engagement as part of the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory.

Over the next two years, *Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory* will provide funding to increase the number of Indigenous Engagement Officers, creating up to 90 full and part time positions.

- **Question 3 - What funding was provided in the 2012-2013 Commonwealth Budget to Indigenous Interpreting and the AIS and KIS? Can you provide a comparison of current and previous years' funding?**

The Government is providing funding to continue support for the Northern Territory Aboriginal Interpreter Service, so local community members can get equitable access to the services they need. The 2012-13 Commonwealth Budget provided \$5.28m for interpreting services in the Northern Territory. Details of funding can be found in the Northern Territory Government's 2012-13 Budget statement and the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department Portfolio Budget Statements.

Additional funding from 2013-14 to 2021-22 for the Northern Territory Aboriginal Interpreting Service is currently being negotiated as part of the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement with the Northern Territory Government and will be published when the Implementation Plan is signed.

Since 2009-10, there has been a growth over time in Commonwealth funding for the Northern Territory Aboriginal Interpreter Service. Details on funding can be found in the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement and the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department Portfolio Budget Statements.

The Kimberley Interpreting Service (KIS) receives funding via the Remote Service Delivery National Partnership Agreement.

- **Question 4 - Does FaHCSIA provide any resources to interpreting services outside of the Northern Territory and the Kimberley? For example is interpreting in South Australia supported by the Commonwealth government?**

In South Australia, FaHCSIA uses interpreters extensively in engagement in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands. Interpreters are sourced from the State government Interpreting and Translating Service, as well as independent interpreters.