

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 403

Topic: Royalty Payment Distribution

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

In response to Question on Notice 45 about payments made to NT Land Councils, it was indicated \$520m has been paid under section 63(3) for distribution to Aboriginal Corporations (commonly referred to as Royalty Associations). Can you confirm that it has been the practice of some land councils to hold back a portion of these 63(3) funds? If yes, please provide details of each case where funds have been withheld including the Aboriginal Corporation, amount of money and reason.

Answer:

Question on notice 45 referred to sections 64(1), 64(3) and 64(4) payments. Section 64(3) of the ALRA concerns payment of monies to the Land Councils for distribution to Royalty Associations and would appear to be the focus of this question (section 63(3) mentioned in the question concerns revenue into the Aboriginals Benefit Account).

Distribution of section 64(3) monies to Royalty Associations is an operational matter for the Northern Territory Land Councils. We are currently requesting the required information from the land councils for inclusion in the response, and will provide it to the Committee once it is available.