

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 254

Topic: Indigenous Interpreters

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Please provide an update on progress on the National framework for interpreters. Why did funding for interpreters only go in COAG sites?

Answer:

Under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Remote Service Delivery (RSD) the Commonwealth has committed to the development of a National Framework for the effective supply and use of Indigenous language interpreters. This RSD funding has been provided specifically for use in supporting interpreter and translation services to the 29 priority communities (as agreed through COAG) in recognition of the intensive engagement required under the NPA.

In addition, the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership provides funding to the Northern Territory Government for further development and strengthening of interpreter services. These services are delivered across the Northern Territory in both the COAG sites and non-COAG sites.

FaHCSIA has undertaken initial preparatory work and broad consultations with other Commonwealth agencies, Indigenous interpreters, partner jurisdictions, industry and tertiary organisations and academics on the issues that need to be taken into account in developing a National Framework. As a result, and taking account of existing Indigenous interpreter services, discussions are underway with Centrelink on the possible approach to providing for the broader uptake of Indigenous interpreter services across the Commonwealth, states and territories.