

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
 Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Empowered Communities Project

Senator: Moore, Claire

Question reference number: 106

Type of question: FPA Friday 12 February 2016, Page 45

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 1 April 2016

Number of pages: 3

Question:

Senator Moore: ...and, if it were Indigenous groups by their traditional space, I would understand. Anyway, that is fine; I will keep reading about that. What I want to know is who they are, and I want to know how much money has been committed up till now for what and exactly what has been committed now from the Prime Minister's statement from 31 March.
 Mr Tongue: We could do up a little table on notice.

Answer:

Empowered Communities (EC) refers to eight self-identified regions, which are working to build a coalition of regional opt-in organisations committed to the EC agenda.

The following table provides further detail on the regions:

Empowered Community region	Key facts on each region
Inner Sydney (Redfern and La Perouse)	Key leaders: Shane Phillips and Chris Ingrey Geographical Definition: The local Government areas of Sydney, Leichhardt, Marrickville, Woollahra, Waverley, Randwick, Botany Bay and Sutherland Shire..
Central Coast	Key leader: Sean Gordon Geographical definition: Gosford and Wyong Shires, plus towns of Wyee and Wyee Point.
Goulburn-Murray	Key leader: Paul Briggs Geographical definition: Area of the Yorta Yorta Nation

Cape York	Key leader Fiona Jose and Noel Pearson Geographical definition: Cape York Indigenous Region (IREG) plus SA1s that enclose Mossman Gorge and surrounding area.
NPY Lands	Key leader Andrea Mason Geographical definition: Area of the NPY Lands Women's Council containing noted communities.
North East Arnhem Land	Key leader Denise Bowden Geographical definition: East Arnhem LGA.
East Kimberley	Key leader Ian Trust Geographical definition: Kununurra Indigenous Coordinating Centre (ICC) region (2012), or WA DAA East Kimberley region.
West Kimberley	Key leader Nolan Hunter Geographical definition: Broome and Derby ICC regions (2012), or WA Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) West Kimberley region.

The Government committed \$5 million over 2013-14 and 2014-15 to support Indigenous leaders to design the EC model. To 31 December 2015, the following was expended:

Expense	Amount (GST excl)
Jawun Regional Coordinators, incl. Engagement Lead and Regional Coordination Lead	\$3,344,163.80
Consultants and media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of consultants to work with Indigenous leaders and other stakeholders to develop the Empowered Communities model and completion of the report for consideration by government. • Media management and other communication duties as required 	\$1,299,460.44 \$24,136.64
Steering Committee	\$95,612.00
TOTAL	\$4,763,372.88

Following the Government's response to the EC leaders in December 2015, additional funding has been committed to extend the Regional Coordinator positions in the EC regions

from 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2016. The intention of this extension is to ensure a smooth transition from the EC design phase through to implementation. Discussions with EC leaders regarding Backbone Organisation funding to deliver the regional response are underway, but funding has not yet been committed.

Since 1 January 2016, the following has been committed for the implementation phase:

Expense	Amount (GST excl)
Jawun Regional Coordinators, incl. Engagement Lead and Regional Coordination Lead	\$381,936.70
TOTAL	\$381,936.70