

**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:** National Partnership Agreement

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question reference number:** 94

**Type of question:** FPA Friday 12 February 2016, Page 26

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator SIEWERT: One of the few things that we agreed with as part of that was the commitment to funding of NGOs. Does the renegotiation involve that commitment?

Mr Ryan: I would have to have a look at it in terms of what the various implementation plans specify. I would probably need to take that on notice and look whether there are specific words in either the NPA or the IPs.

**Answer:**

The former National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory (SFNT) included both National Partnership Payments direct to the Northern Territory Government and Commonwealth Own Purpose Expenses (COPE) funding.

As part of the COPE commitments under the SFNT Remote Engagement and Coordination Implementation Plan the Australian Government allocated funding for the Enhancing Communities element. Enhancing Communities provided investment over the first three years of the agreement to build the capacity of local Aboriginal and non-government organisations (NGO). The final year of this funding was 2014-15.

The new National Partnership on Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment (NPA) is a government to government agreement that provides a seven year funding commitment from 2015-16. This NPA covers funding that the Commonwealth direct to the Northern Territory Government, however it no longer refers to COPE funding, most of which now falls under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy. Under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy NGOs are able to seek funding to support capacity building.

The new Agreement is still under negotiation. Once finalised, the new Agreement and Implementation Plans will be publicly available on the Federal Financial Relations website.