

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: ANAO Report - IAS

Senator: McAllister, Jenny

Question reference number: 112

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Question:

Senator McALLISTER: So 39 projects were taken on or taken off. Why was the list of projects recommended for funding changed, of those 39?

Ms Black: I would have to go back and have a look at the 39 for you. My recollection was we were still settling internally. We had a grant selection committee which is made up of first assistant secretaries who were the governance body making recommendations to the minister. There were still some conversations happening in that body around recommendations to the minister. As I said, it was a very small number where the recommendation actually changed. The bulk were around the value.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet can confirm that 39 projects had their recommendation for funding revised between the 1 March and 3 March 2015 briefings, to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion.

The reason for these changes was noted in footnote 50 in the *ANAO Performance Audit Report No. 35 2016-17: Indigenous Advancement Strategy* "The department advised the ANAO that the recommendations were revised as they had originally been developed to be available for a meeting with the Prime Minister and the Minister for Indigenous Affairs on 2 March and that, upon reflection, the department was not fully satisfied with the recommendations made".