

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

Senator: Dodson, Patrick

Question reference number: 117

Type of question: FPA Friday 3 March 2017, page 49

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 April 2017

Number of pages: 4

Question:

Senator DODSON: A question to Mr Hehir about the comment on page 7 of the summary in paragraph 2. Could you give me a view on the meaning of the statement that was said that the 2014-15 budget reported that the Australian government would save \$534.4 million over five years by rationalising Indigenous programs, grants and activities?

Mr Hehir: I am not certain I understand the question.

Senator DODSON: I want to know what your view is. That is the statement you make.

Mr Hehir: That is a statement.

Senator DODSON: Is it a correct statement?

Mr Hehir: It is a statement of fact from the budget documentation.

Senator DODSON: Is the fact based on cuts to operations or cuts to programs? I read that as cuts to programs.

Mr Hehir: That is a question that you would need to give to the department. We are quoting on the budget documents with what they state would occur. How it is implemented would be a departmental issue.

Mr Tongue: We have provided previously on notice a reconciliation of the changes that were made in the budget and then the subsequent reinvestment in other priorities under the IAS. I am happy for us to dig that out again and provide it to you.

Answer:

Question on Notice 172 from the 2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates hearings provided details of the \$239.5 million dollars saved from the IAS over 4 years, which was announced in the 2014-15 Budget. Refer to Attachment A.

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Indigenous Advancement Strategy

Senator: Dodson, Patrick

Question reference number: 172

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Can you please provide details outlining what the savings were from the Indigenous Affairs Programme from the Ministers press release?

Answer:

The 2014-15 Budget papers announced the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS). The announcement included savings of \$534.4 million over five years through efficiencies resulting from the rationalisation of Indigenous programmes, grants and activities administered by the Prime Minister and Cabinet and Health portfolios.

Of this, the saving from the IAS was \$239.5 million over four years. This saving was realised through reductions in duplication, red tape and inefficiency achieved by bringing together over 150 programmes and activities from eight different departments.

The \$534.4 million commonly used is comprised of the \$239.5 million net save along with:

- \$121.8 million in savings from the Health portfolio
- \$3.5 million in savings from the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)
- \$53.9 million reduction in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet departmental funding
- \$115.7 of funding that the Government reinvested into Indigenous Affairs priorities.

The \$115.7 million reinvestment contributed to the following measures:

- \$54.1 million for the Permanent Police Presence in the Northern Territory measure
- \$13.4 million for the Clontarf Foundation Academy – expansion measure
- \$2.5 million for the Community Engagement Police Officers in the Northern Territory measure
- \$3.8 million for the Support for the Northern Territory Child Abuse Taskforce (CAT) continuation measure
- \$46.3 million for the Municipal & Essential Services – transition arrangements

- \$10.6 million for the Outback Power measure