

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: Barkly Region Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group

Senator: McCarthy, Malrindirri

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator Scullion: I would have to seek advice. The only reason I would not elaborate is that I am not sure exactly. I understand that there are investigations afoot and I am reluctant for that reason. Perhaps if I could just take that on notice and if there is none afoot I will be able to provide you with all of that detail.

Senator McCARTHY: Thank you. I am certainly aware that the department is going to undertake a review. Can the department step the committee through how they propose to undertake that review?

Ms Hefren-Webb: Is this in relation to Julalikari more generally?

Senator Scullion: No, this is BRADAAG.

Senator McCARTHY: This is the Barkly Region Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group.

Ms Hefren-Webb: We will need to come back to you with the detail on that.

Senator McCARTHY: Can the department clarify whether you intend on performing a forensic audit? Would you like to take those questions on notice?

Mr Tongue: We will take those on notice.

Answer:

A review conducted by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) has commenced to establish any misuse of Commonwealth funds by Barkly Region Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group.

The review will involve a site visit to gather information and records, including financial records to enable an assessment of expenditure against relevant funding agreements.

The review is being undertaken by a specialist area of PM&C using existing resources and will not require any additional funding for a forensic audit as requested by the Barkly Region Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group.