

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: Indigenous Advisory Council

Senator: Dodson, Patrick

Question reference number: 181

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 3

Question:

Can you please advise the date on which a decision was taken not to continue the terms of the previous membership of the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council??

- On what date were they informed?
- By what means were they told their terms would not be extended?
- During their term, how many times did the IAC meet?
- Can you please provide:
 - o Details of those meetings –date, time place, duration?
 - o The expenditure on each meeting
 - o Any other additional expenditure by the former members of the IAC?
- How many times did the Prime Minister meet with the former IAC?
- How many times did the Minister for Indigenous Affairs meet with the former IAC?

Answer:

- The inaugural Indigenous Advisory Council (the Council) members were appointed for a term of up to three years. Members' terms of appointment expired by 11 November 2016. A letter from the Department, dated 22 November 2016, was sent to the inaugural Council members offering to extend their terms until 31 January 2017 to allow for the completion of the Council's work.
- The inaugural Council met a total of 14 times.

Details of meetings

Meeting Date	Location	Prime Ministerial attendance
5 December 2013	Canberra	Former Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP
13 February 2014	Canberra	
2 April 2014	Sydney	
29 May 2014	Canberra	Former Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP
25 June 2014	Canberra	
28 August 2014	Canberra	
17 September 2014	Arnhem Land	Former Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP
23 October 2014	Canberra	Former Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP
12 February 2015	Canberra	Former Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP
26-28 May 2015	Sydney and Canberra	Former Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP
24 August 2015	Torres Strait	Former Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP
14 October 2015	Canberra	Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
10-11 February 2016	Canberra	Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
13 December 2016	Sydney	

The expenditure on each meeting

Date	Location	Cost
December 2013	Canberra	\$22,000
February 2014	Canberra	\$32,000

	Members were in Canberra for extra days due to Reconciliation Week	
April 2014	Sydney	\$15,000
May 2014	Canberra	\$20,000
June 2014	Canberra	\$18,000
August 2104	Canberra	\$20,000
17 September 2014	North East Arnhem Land	\$29,000
23 October 2014	Canberra	\$22,100
12 February 2015	Canberra	\$26,500
23 April 2015 (Cancelled)	Sydney	\$300
26-28 May 2015	Sydney/Canberra	\$25,200
14 October 2015	Canberra	\$27,900
10-11 February 2016	Canberra Members were in Canberra for extra days due to the release of the Closing the Gap report and associated events	\$49,100
28-29 September 2016 (Deferred)	Canberra	\$670
13 December 2016	Sydney	\$13,500
Total Meeting Costs (as at 31 Jan 2017)		\$321,270

- Additional expenditure of \$439,652 provided for the Chair's remuneration and members' out-of-session activities.
- Former Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, met with the former Council seven times.
- The Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, met with the former Council twice.
- The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, met with the former Council nine times and met separately a number of times with the Chair and Deputy Chair.