

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

Question reference number: 216

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator McCARTHY: I will read them through then. How will you ensure service delivery is maintained while the review is undertaken and will funding be maintained for the region?

Was the department monitoring the allocated federal funding granted to the Barkly Region Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group?

Mr Gibson: We will take all of those on notice.

Senator Scullion: We will take some of those on notice. I have just found the part where I can recall that they were in the process of moving to an ORIC organisation under the requirements for that but the issues at the time ensured that they were required to meet section 93 of the Associations Act of the Northern Territory so it is sort of half in ORIC and half in the territory. I do understand that the Northern Territory Attorney-General and Justice is currently undertaking an investigation into the operational management of BRADAAG and that BRADAAG has reported the alleged financial irregularities to the police and that is being processed.

I am also aware that they now have a different CEO, and you may well be aware of that as well. I understand that BRADAAG, as you know, does a lot of housing and leasing in the area so all of that remains the same. Our area of concern is simply around the allegations of the mismanagement of funds. It should not have an impact on their operations but we will take those matters on notice.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) currently has a three-year funding agreement with Barkly Region Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group (BRADAAG) for provision of alcohol and other drug services. PM&C regularly monitors service delivery.

PM&C has commenced a review to establish any misuse of Commonwealth funds by BRADAAG.

PM&C is working closely with BRADAAG to ensure the delivery of PM&C funded services will be maintained.