

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Staff retention target

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator McLucas: My question, though, is: what is the target going to be for the Indigenous section of PM&C under the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment and retention policy?

Mr Eccles: The targets for each portfolio have not been finalised. We would be able to advise that in the coming weeks.

Senator McLucas: So you are being told what your target is going to be?

Mr Eccles: Yes

...

Mr Eccles: It is important to note that the Australian Public Service Commission, appropriately so, is taking responsibility across the public sector for the policy that underpins it, which also includes the allocation of targets to each department.

Senator McLucas: I find it interesting that you are receiving a target for the APS, which is fine.

Mr Eccles: We have a very strong commitment to increasing the number of Indigenous people who work in PM&C. What that target end up being, it is just a little bit too early to say. But the target will be in excess of where we are now.

Senator McLucas: Good. When you have it we will get it on notice, I suppose. That is all I had around corporate.

Answer:

The Department's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment target will be set in conjunction with the Australian Public Service Commission as part of the Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy. The target, expected to be known by the end of July 2015, will likely build on the Department's current level of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation of 15 per cent.