

**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:** Indigenous Advancement Strategy

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

**Question reference number:** 281

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 10 July 2015

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

What was the process undertaken for the gap fill funding?

- a. Did the gap round review all IAS applications? If not, why?
- b. How were gaps identified?
- c. What criteria were used to determine outcomes for the gap fill process?
- d. Were the original assessment panels and grants selection committee involved in the gap fill process? Describe their roles in the gap analysis process.
- e. How did the department determine whether an organisation had an appropriate score to be considered in the gap fill process? Was a baseline score applied across all organisations, or those within a particular program stream or category? If so, what was this score?
- f. Were any organisations funded in the gap fill process that received low scores in the competitive round? If so, how many?
- g. Did the Minister direct the department to negotiate with particular organisations?
- h. Is the gap-fill process ongoing? If so, how does the gap fill process differ from the demand driven process?

**Answers:**

- a. All applications received by the Department for the IAS grant funding round were assessed. It was not necessary to review all IAS applications for the gap filling process as it focused on the areas where service gaps were identified.
- b. In identifying gaps, there were three primary sources:
  - i. individual service providers the Department was negotiating with;
  - ii. regional managers based on their knowledge of the community; and
  - iii. in some cases, individuals or organisations that came forward to the Department.

- c. The Department defined it was a gap by considering:
- was there previously a frontline service;
  - was there a continuing need for the frontline service;
  - whether people would lack a frontline service; and
  - did the service align with the priorities of the IAS.
- d. Departmental officers involved in the assessment process were involved in the gap process. The Grant Selection Committee, with input from Network staff, made recommendations to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs (the Minister) to address any gaps.
- e. Scores were not used in the gap filling process.
- f. Yes. It is possible that organisations that received a low score were funded through the gap filling process. However the focus of the process was on ensuring any frontline service gaps were filled.
- g. No. Where organisations applied to the Minister's Office in the IAS funding round they were all directed to the Department for consideration and advice.
- h. For the purposes of the grant funding round the Department has finalised the gap filling exercise.

The Department anticipates needs and opportunities will emerge in the future. These will be addressed using the options available under the IAS guidelines.