

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: Employment (Indigenous Employment Programme)

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Question reference number: 307

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 June 2015

Number of pages: 2

Questions:

1. What is the current status of the Indigenous Employment Programme (IEP)?
 - a. Can you provide the latest available data for the IEP?
 - b. Do you have data for the IEP prior to the programme being rolled into the Indigenous Advancement Strategy?
 - c. How many providers funded through the IEP applied for funding under the IAS?
 - d. How many IEP programs have been funded under the IAS?
 - e. Can you provide data on the take up of the IEP in remote communities since the Government reintroduced it as part of the Remote Jobs and Communities Program?
 - f. How much of the \$40 million committed to the IEP in remote areas was expended?
 - g. What happened to unspent and uncommitted IEP funding from this \$40 million?

Answers:

1. The IEP and all related programme elements were transitioned to the Jobs, Land and Economy stream of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy on 1 July 2014.
 - a. The IEP ceased to exist as a separate programme on 1 July 2014.
 - b. For the financial year 2013-14, IEP expended \$96.374 million and achieved 17,645 IEP commencements, including 10,083 employment commencements and 7,562 commencements in training and other assistance (including mentoring and aspiration building).
 - c. 899 IEP funded providers have applied for funding under the IAS.
 - d. All IEP programmes (including individual projects) were streamlined under the IAS.
 - e. On 29 November 2013, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs announced up to \$40 million for the reintroduction of the IEP into remote communities. For IEP activities approved between November 2013 and 30 June 2014.
 - \$7.3 million (GST Inclusive) was approved for 20 tailored assistance activities located in remote locations to support 583 employment placements.

- \$34.7 million (GST Inclusive) was approved for 40 tailored assistance activities with combined geographical locations of remote and non-remote to support 2,997 employment outcomes.
- f. As at 21 June 2015, these combined 60 projects have supported over 2,200 employment commencements with \$17.8 million (GST Inclusive) of the activity funds spent.
- g. IEP funds not spent in remote areas were utilised for non-remote employment activities.