

**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:** Municipal and Essential Services

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

**Question reference number:** 322

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Have negotiations commenced with the Northern Territory Government to take full responsibility for the provision of municipal and essential services in the 376 communities, homelands and outstations currently funded under the National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory?

- a. On what date did these negotiations commence?
- b. What is the current status of the negotiations?

**Answer:**

The 2015 Budget included \$154.8 million in 2015-16 to assist the Northern Territory to assume full responsibility for the ongoing delivery of municipal and essential services in Indigenous communities. An offer was formally put to the Northern Territory Government after the 2015 Budget.

The Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government are in discussions about proposed arrangements.