

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: Stronger Futures

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

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Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

According to Budget Paper No.2, Commonwealth administered funding of \$1.4 billion, currently part of the NPA on Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory, will not be included in the new NPA on Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment.

- a. Which elements of the NPA on Stronger Futures will this \$1.4 billion continue to fund?
- b. Over what period is this \$1.4 billion committed?
- c. Provide details of the funding on a year-by-year basis over the forward estimates.
- d. How much of the \$1.4 billion is already contracted? Provide a year-by-year breakdown for contracted funding.
- e. Will the \$1.4 billion fund programs or activities that did not form part of the NPA on Stronger Futures?
- f. What changes will be made to program guidelines, outputs, reporting or service delivery as a result of the administration of this funding outside of the NPA framework?

Answer:

- a. The new NPA will no longer refer to Commonwealth administered (Commonwealth Own Purpose Expenses - COPE) funding:
 - i. COPE funding will continue to flow through other avenues, including the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS), and will be subject to the relevant programme guidelines.
 - ii. Services previously funded by Stronger Futures COPE have largely continued under the IAS, as part of the portfolio's direct investment to critical front line services in the Northern Territory such as School Nutrition Programmes, Community Night Patrols and Indigenous Playgroups and Crèches.
 - iii. Other services not in the PM&C portfolio are also continuing, such as primary health care in the NT and the Intensive Family Support Services managed by the Department of Social Services.

- b. COPE funding was allocated from 2015-16 to 2021-22.
- c. COPE funding allocated under the Stronger Futures NPA and its Implementation Plans on a year-by-year basis is available in Schedule K of the NPA, on the Council on Federal Financial Relations' website. COPE funding, by year, under the original Stronger Futures NPA was:

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
COPE \$m	6.110	165.944	171.915	190.093	189.718	190.606	197.387	207.813	195.364	198.348	202.148

- d. COPE funding was not contracted under the Stronger Futures NPA. As part of the 2014-15 Budget, all PM&C administered funding was moved into the IAS and subject to the relevant IAS programme guidelines.
- e. Please refer to (a).
- f. COPE funding under the IAS is subject to the IAS programme guidelines. Outputs, reporting and service delivery arrangements are covered under the individual contracts with providers. Administration of this funding is managed by the relevant IAS programme stream.