

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SENATE ESTIMATES SESSION

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Australian Employment Covenant – town hall sessions

Senator: Senator Rachel Siewert

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Type of Question: Hansard

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: You had a roundtable and a town hall session?

Ms Gumley: Yes.

Senator SIEWERT: How strongly were the town hall sessions attended?

Ms Gumley: Very. There was standing room only in Kununurra with people outside. We are happy to confirm on notice the details. In Alice Springs there were probably 300-plus people in the room. In Adelaide there would have been about 150 and in Sydney, yesterday, there were probably about 130 people.

Mr Eccles: There were about 200 in Darwin and 250 in Perth.

Ms Gumley: So, good engagement and participation.

Senator SIEWERT: Will there be notes or outcomes from those town hall meetings publicly available?

Mr Eccles: We had contemplated putting out the outcomes of the meetings. The role of the meetings was to inform Mr Forrest and Mr Tudge on the breadth of issues and that would influence the final report. We will take that one on notice. If that is what people are after it is something we could look at. How strongly were the town hall sessions attended? Will there be notes or outcomes from those town hall meetings publically available.

Answer:

- Around 1600 people attended the first public consultations on the Review from 15-22 November 2013 in Perth, Adelaide, Alice Springs, Kununurra, Darwin, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.
- 1442 attendees registered via the Review website, and approximately another 200 people attended on the day without registering.
- Notes were taken at each of the forums and these will be presented as key themes in the final report.

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- The key themes emerging from the consultations include:
 - a focus on demand-led training and employment programmes;
 - reforms to welfare to break the cycle of reliance;
 - aligning risk and reward across programmes and services;
 - the interdependency of education, housing, substance abuse, incarceration and getting Indigenous Australians into employment.