

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: Departmental changes

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

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Type of Question: Written

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. The Coalition's policy document states the "Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet will ensure greater priority is given to Indigenous affairs in terms of access to mainstream programmes across all agencies."

- (a) What does this mean in practice?
- (b) What practical and structural changes have been effected within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to achieve this?
- (c) How will the Indigenous Affairs portfolio operate differently within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet compared to its previous operation within the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs?

Answer:

There is now a dedicated Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, and a Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Hon Alan Tudge MP. Indigenous Affairs has become a group in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), bringing together staff and programmes from eight departments. Through establishing the group, greater simplification and alignment can be achieved, including through the removal of unnecessary duplication and bureaucracy.

PM&C will use its lead agency role to drive coordination across Australian Government agencies and ensure Indigenous Affairs remains a priority for all agencies.