

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: Constitutional recognition

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Question reference number: 260

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

I refer to statements made on Friday 22 November 2013 before the Committee in relation to constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Could you detail how, “at an official level and ministerial level this portfolio is working very closely with the A-G” on constitutional recognition? Which Minister is working very closely with the Attorney General – the Minister for Indigenous Affairs or the Prime Minister? What structures or processes have been put in place between these two portfolios to give effect to their “working very closely?”

Answer:

Officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Attorney-General’s Department have met and consulted regularly on the issue of constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Hon Alan Tudge MP and the Attorney-General, Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, have discussed these matters on several occasions.