

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: National Congress of Australia's First Peoples

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Question reference number: 268

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples received \$15 million in the 2013-14 Budget, allocated from 2014-15 to 2016-17 to enable Congress to continue operating as a national representative body, informing government on the views, issues and concerns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and providing input into the development of policies and programs.

- (a) How will the Government ensure the future sustainability of Congress?
- (b) Is the government committed to the funding provided to Congress in the 2013-14 budget?
- (c) Can we expect to see the continuation of the funding over the full three years?
- (d) If not, what is the rationale behind ripping this funding away from Congress?
- (e) How does the Minister reconcile the Government's rhetoric of a new engagement with Indigenous people with a decision not to honour funding commitments to support Congress – a national representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?

Answer:

Future sustainability is a matter for the Congress and funding for Congress is a matter for Government.