

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: Closing the Gap

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

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Type of Question: Written

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Question:

Regarding Closing the Gap, the Coalition's policy document states that it "will examine...programmes to make sure that they are directly working to meet Closing the Gap targets" and "will take steps to ensure that the people who the programmes and services are intended to assist take advantage of those programmes and services" and "make sure that programmes are targeted on the basis of need."

How will the government do this? How will you "make sure"?

Answer:

The Australian Government will review the effectiveness of programmes and policies in achieving real and positive outcomes for Indigenous Australians. The review will focus on ensuring Indigenous-specific and relevant mainstream programmes are needs-based, responsive, and flexible to local conditions and opportunities. The review will also look to reduce duplication and fragmentation of services and improve evaluation arrangements.