

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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: Enhancing Communities Programme

Senator: Senator Dean Smith

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Type of Question: Written

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Question:

1. How much funding was allocated to Aboriginal corporations under the Enhancing Communities Program for "organisational development and capacity building"?
2. How was the funding allocated to these organisations? Was there an opportunity for Aboriginal corporations to apply for funding, or did the Department nominate projects?
3. Over what period was funding allocated?
4. Can you provide the details about the delivery of this funding? For example, provide the break down of the administrative costs against actual services delivered for individual corporations that received funding for "organisational development and capacity building"?
5. How much funding was provided to the Thamarrurr Regional Authority Aboriginal Corporation (TRACe) for organisational development and capacity building? What were the circumstances under which this figure was arrived at? What are the outcomes from this funding? What outcomes have been delivered to date?
6. How much funding was provided to the Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation for organisational development and capacity building? What were the circumstances under which this figure was arrived at? What are the outcomes from this funding? What outcomes have been delivered to date?
7. Can you break down administrative costs against actual services delivered? What proportion of funds are providing wages or other staff costs? What proportion are providing actual services?
8. Were there any cases where the organisation received more funding than what they applied for?
If so, who made this decision?

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9. When was the decision made to grant this funding to these projects? How long did the Department have to negotiate funding agreements with organisations?

10. Are there any projects funded by this program where the person who is running the project an Indigenous person who is locally engaged?

Answer:

1. \$3,675,500 from 2012-13 to 2014-15.
2. Enhancing Communities funding was allocated through engagement with local Aboriginal communities and organisations. The “*Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory: Implementation approach for Enhancing Communities*”, which outlined this approach, was published on the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs website.
3. For up to three years from 2012-13 to 2014-15.
4. Enhancing Communities funding is delivered through funding agreements detailing outcomes and performance indicators for each activity and managed and coordinated by the Department’s Northern Territory State Office and the National Office.
5. \$500,000 has been allocated to TRAAC from 2012-13 to 2013-14.

TRAAC sought funding to support its capacity to improve service delivery across its many areas of work, including human resource and financial management practices, governance training for board members, and the development of an asset map and strategic plan. The funding was negotiated by the Department with the organisation based on the scope of the project.

This included funding for the General Manager position and towards employment of an office manager. Recruitment processes were underway as at 14 January 2014.

6. \$720,000 has been allocated to the Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation from 2012-13 to 2014-15.

The Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation sought funding to build capacity of its board members, develop and maintain a stakeholder and community engagement plan and improve its business systems. The funding was negotiated by the Department with the organisation based on the scope of the project.

A coordinator has been recruited and is working with the community and relevant stakeholders to develop terms of reference and a project work plan to achieve these outcomes. The role description and duty statement for the coordinator position were developed with community input.

7. Funding was provided under Enhancing Communities to support capacity building, and leadership and governance development. All project costs, including wages and other staff costs relate to these activities.

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8. The funding amounts to organisations which received funding for 'organisational development and capacity building' was settled through negotiation. In a number of cases the amount increased. This primarily arose where it was deemed that funding beyond a single year would achieve more sustainable outcomes.
9. Initial decisions were made in May and June 2013. The majority of funding agreements were negotiated by 30 June 2013.
10. A number of projects funded by Enhancing Communities are being run by Indigenous people who are locally engaged.