

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 20-24 October 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Clontarf programs – women’s participation

Senator: Senator Nova Peris

Question reference number: 37

Type of question: FPA Friday 24 October 2014, page 17

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 December 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator PERIS: Minister, we both know Clontarf is just for boys. Why haven’t you funded some programs for girls, especially given the fact that the Northern Territory government closed three girls’ academies in the last 12 months?

Senator Scullion: You can only ask questions that are a matter for this government. In response to why we do not have a program for girls now, I will have to take on notice the actual contribution we make for engagement of women in this area. That is a conversation, as you would be well aware, we often have with Clontarf. In the footy area, we have a number of women’s AFL teams in the Northern Territory that are very good. This is a matter under constant consideration. Clontarf have indicated that this is the product that they provide. It is an excellent product. When they started this around Australia it was about young men’s engagement in an almost theological sense with AFL. That is why they have been so successful. But we continue to look for similar models that are as engaging for women in this particular area. But I will have to take on notice our investment in that area.

Answer:

The Clontarf Foundation is one of 19 providers who received funding from the Government under the former Sporting Chance Programme (SCP).

The SCP provided funding to support five Education Engagement Strategies (EES) and 78 academies that include a combination of boys’ only academies (delivered by the Clontarf Foundation), girls’ only and mixed gender academies. The 2014 funding breakdown across SCP activities is:

- \$6.6 million to the Clontarf Foundation for boys’ only academies;
- \$3.0 million for providers delivering girls’ only academies; and
- \$5.3 million for mixed gender academies and mixed gender EES.

2013 data for Sporting Chance academies indicates that 59 per cent of participants were boys and 41 per cent girls.