

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 2

Program 1.5

Question No. 135

Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2014:

- 1) Why has the Government decided to cut funding to the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples?
- 2) Did the Attorney-General's Department consult with the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples prior to announcing the termination of Commonwealth funding?
 - i. If not, why not?
- 3) Did the Attorney-General's Department provide any advice to the Attorney-General in relation to the cutting of funding to the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples? If so, on what date(s) was that advice provided.
- 4) What impact does the Attorney-General's Department expect the defunding of the National Congress of First Peoples to have on progress toward constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The Department does not fund the Congress of Australia's First Peoples. This was previously the responsibility of the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and is now the responsibility of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.