

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

**Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013**

**Question:** E13-140

**OUTCOME 11:** Mental Health

**Topic:** Port Augusta Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 43, 15 February 2013

**Senator:** Senator Fierravanti-Wells

**Question:**

- a) How many meetings has the department had with the local community in Port Augusta on this project?
- b) Did the department meet the council to discuss possible sites and access to those sites?
- c) And, if there were no meetings, please provide a reason as to why. Given the circumstances and the amounts of money involved, I would have thought it would have been appropriate for at least a departmental officer from your South Australian office to meet with the council in relation to possible sites.
- d) Also, I have been informed that the consulting group Arup were engaged to scope the project and commence planning. How much have they been paid for their services?
- e) Can you tell me how much has been spent on the entire process since the announcement of the funding in 2007?

**Answer:**

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing has had a range of interactions with the local Port Augusta community and key stakeholders about the Port Augusta Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre. These include:
  - Stakeholder and community meetings in Port Augusta as part of a scoping assessment for this project on 10 June 2010. During this phase, ARUP, the project consultants, also conducted several telephone interviews with key stakeholders in the Aboriginal health sector;
  - A meeting with the Chairperson of the Port Augusta Alcohol Management Group (PAAMG) and Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia on 28 September 2010;
  - A teleconference with the PAAMG (including representatives from the Port Augusta City Council) on 12 October 2010;
  - Stakeholder meetings to discuss the Invitation to Apply (ITA) held in Adelaide on 29 November 2010 and in Port Augusta on 2 December 2010;

- A meeting with the City of Port Augusta Mayor, Joy Baluch, on 12 January 2011;
- Teleconferences on 10 April 2012 and 10 August 2012 with the Council;
- Written correspondence on: 9 April 2010 to the Council and PAAMG; 15 April 2011 to PAAMG; 30 August 2011 to the Council; 1 March 2012 to PAAMG; and 29 June 2012 to the Council; and
- The Department met with representatives from the Council on 20 November 2012 and provided an update on the project. A further telephone update was provided in December 2012.

b) and c)

As part of the research and consultations conducted with key stakeholders through the ARUP scoping assessment, six potential sites were identified.

To avoid potential conflicts of interest arising in the ITA process, the Department proceeded with the selection of a service delivery organisation through the ITA prior to undertaking detailed discussions with individual organisations on a preferred site.

The Department also investigated potential sites with the assistance of the South Australian Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Port Augusta Indigenous Coordination Centre. Possible sites were also discussed with the Council at the 10 August 2012 teleconference.

As ITA was closed without a successful organisation being offered a contract, further discussions regarding site selection have not taken place.

- d) ARUP was paid \$79,445 (GST exclusive) for the Scoping Assessment Report for the initial Invitation to Apply for the Port Augusta drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre.
- e) Total expenditure on the Port Augusta drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre project since 2007 is \$83,051 (GST exclusive). This includes the Scoping Assessment Report prepared by ARUP and costs associated with advertising the ITA.