

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2012-13 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 7

**Question No:** 163

**Topic:** Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

**Hansard Page:** 15/02/2013 - CA35

**Senator Smith** asked:

In relation to allegations that have been made in regard to the Western Desert Aboriginal Corporation (WDPAC). What work has been undertaken by officers to examine allegations made by Mr Bruce Hill regarding the Aboriginal corporation? What findings were made? Was a brief of evidence prepared? At what point or date did ORIC decide not to pursue investigating the allegations made by Mr Hill?

**Answer:**

From March 2010 to July 2011 officers from the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) investigated WDPAC and other persons in relation to alleged contraventions of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*. A number of compelled interviews were conducted and information obtained by the investigators. In February 2012 ORIC reviewed the documentary evidence and witness transcripts obtained. ORIC considered that there was insufficient evidence to warrant referral of a brief of evidence to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. On 15 February 2012 it was decided to take no further action in relation to the WDPAC matter.

Around May 2012 a complaint was made to the Commonwealth Ombudsman about ORIC's decision in relation to the WDPAC matter. The complaint also raised 27 allegations against WDPAC. The Ombudsman investigated the matter and, in August 2012, decided that no further investigation of the complaint about ORIC was warranted.