

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

2003-2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING – 2 and 3 JUNE 2003

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome: Corporate

Question Number: W077-04

Question:

Senator George Campbell asked in writing:

- (a) What public (Commonwealth) funds were provided to the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and/or to its constituent State bodies for each of the financial years 1996-97; 1997-98; 1998-99, 1999-2000; 2000-01; 2001-02? Please list funds in breakdowns listed by Department, agency, statutory body or other administering organisation.
- (b) For what purpose were these funds provided?
- (c) To what extent were these purposes achieved and how was that determined?

Answer:

- (a) The following funding was provided to ACCI by the Department:

1996-1997	\$866,191
1997-1998	\$1,007,444
1998-1999	\$977,450
1999-2000	\$621,945
2000-2001	\$420,125
2001-2002	\$562,159

- (b) The majority of funding was provided to ACCI to establish and support a network of state and territory based staff. Under the funding contracts, ACCI and its network of staff were required to promote Indigenous employment to ACCI members and employers more generally; develop and produce a quarterly newsletter; develop and implement an Internet site to promote Indigenous employment; develop and distribute brochures directed at Indigenous jobseekers and communities; promote Indigenous employment and programmes through the Indigenous media; and present relevant information on Indigenous employment at forums and seminars at the community and industry level. Funding was also provided on a fee for service basis from June 2000 for placing Indigenous Australians in full-time employment.

- (c) The network of state and territory based ACCI staff was maintained throughout the period. Planned marketing, promotion and other activities were undertaken and ACCI had facilitated the placement of an estimated 950 Indigenous Australians in employment between June 2000 and end May 2003. These outcomes have been determined through a combination of ACCI reporting, departmental sampling and review and independent audited statements received at the conclusion of funding contracts. In addition to the estimated 950 employment placements facilitated by ACCI, reports indicate the Chamber's general marketing and promotion of Indigenous employment has also generated a significant number of employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians.

OEA

- (a) The following funding was provided to ACCI by the Office of the Employment Advocate:

1996-1997	Nil
1997-1998	Nil
1998-1999	Nil
1999-2000	\$320
2000-2001	Nil
2001-2002	Nil
2002-2003	\$1,294

- (b) Payments made in 1999-2000 relate to one individual's attendance at a conference in Victoria, and another individual's attendance at two separate seminars in Sydney relating to preparations for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

Payments made in 2002-2003 relate to one membership application with Tasmania Chamber of Commerce, a membership application with Launceston Chamber of Commerce, and one individual's attendance at the 'Tasmanian Survey of Business Expectations' presentation.

Membership of the Chamber gives the OEA access to function facilities at discounted rates, free publicity in Chamber publications, and access to information about the Tasmanian economy and Tasmanian business.

- (c) Attendances and memberships confirmed in each instance.

NOHSC

- (a) The following funding was provided to ACCI by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (NOHSC) for the relevant periods:

1996-1997	\$800,000	Resource and training grants
1998-1999	\$200,000	Resource grant
1999-2000	\$200,000	Resource grant
2000-2001	\$200,000	Contract for provision of services

2001-2002 \$200,000 Contract for provision of services

- (b) From 1996 to 2001, NOHSC provided funding to both ACCI and the ACTU through resource and training grants. The resource grants were provided to facilitate effective participation in NOHSC and its committees. The training grants were provided to allow the ACTU and ACCI to conduct OHS training. Training grants were discontinued in 1997-98, while the resource grants continued until 2000-01. Commencing in July 2001, the grants were replaced with a purchaser/provider contract arrangement, which is invoiced and paid quarterly. The current contract covers the three-year period July 2001-June 2004. The services provided under these contracts include:
- effective participation in NOHSC and its committees and the provision of input to NOHSC, following consultation with members and affiliates;
 - dissemination of NOHSC and other relevant material to improve OHS performance; and
 - projects to advance NOHSC's strategic plan and the *National OHS Strategy 2002-2012*.
- (c) The purposes covered by the grants and, more recently, by the contracts have been assessed by NOHSC as having been achieved. Neither the ACCI or the ACTU participates in decision-making by NOHSC (on which each is represented) about any funds provided to them.