

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

**2005-2006 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
30, 31 MAY and 3 JUNE 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Indigenous Business Australia

Question Number: W378-06

Question:

Senator Carr provided in writing:

What is IBA's role in the development of the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy? How much is this process expected to cost IBA? If IBA has primary carriage of this project, what will the processes be for consulting other Commonwealth agencies, State and Territory governments and Indigenous people and organisations in the development of this strategy?

Answer:

The March 2005 passage of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* effected the transfer of two key economic programmes to IBA, the Indigenous Business Development Programme (IBDP) from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and the Home Ownership Programme (HOP) from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC). The legislation also provided for the transfer of responsibility to IBA of all of the outstanding IBDP and HOP loans and a number of assets of the former Commission.

The combination of these programs will enable IBA to contribute more holistically to the economic development of Indigenous people through a suite of complementary programmes. With this expanded role, IBA is now a key player in the whole of government approach to Indigenous economic development.

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations has the lead role in developing the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy. IBA is working closely with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to achieve a realignment of the portfolio economic development programmes to better achieve the objectives of the broader Indigenous Economic Development Strategy.

IBA would anticipate that the process would have minimal cost impact, drawing on existing resources wherever possible.