

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

**2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
2 and 3 NOVEMBER 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 3: Increased workforce participation

Output Group 3.1: Working age policy

Output 3.1.1: Working age policy legislation

Question Number: W436-06

Question:

Senator Wong asked at *Hansard* page 24:

Could the department please provide copies of all correspondence or public information provided to the community which indicates the COAG trial sites handover?

Answer:

The Office of Indigenous Policy and Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) have been gradually taking over responsibility for drawing together stakeholders and taking a lead role in representing Australian Government interests in the Cape York and Shepparton trial sites. This transition has been discussed in meetings with community members. There has been no correspondence or public information produced by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations with Cape York or Shepparton Indigenous communities concerning the handing over of the lead agency responsibility.

Indeed, the handover of lead agency responsibilities was reported to this Committee in response W108-06 during the Budget Estimates hearings. Furthermore, the role of ICCs has been widely publicised and a range of public information has been made available to the public on their role. For example, on 10 May 2005, Minister Vanstone issued a media release which stated:

“Since agencies resumed direct responsibility for Indigenous programs, they have more readily identified areas of particular need and are responding accordingly.

This process has been assisted by the establishment of Indigenous Coordination Centres across Australia, bringing together representatives of key government agencies to work directly with Indigenous communities and broker solutions appropriate to the priorities identified by communities themselves.”