

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Additional Budget Estimates Hearings – 14 February 2006

Question: F59

Outcome 1, Output 1.2.4

Topic: Office of Evaluation and Audit (Indigenous Programs)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Evans asked:

1. In relation to each of the eight programmed audits in progress at 30 June 2005, indicate (see page 352 of the Annual Report):
 - whether they have been completed
 - whether a report has been provided to the Department
 - whether a report has been provided to the Minister
 - when the audit will be completed
2. What programmed audits have been established since 30 June 2005? For each indicate the topic and scope of the audit.
3. In relation to the accountability audits requested by the Minister or initiated by the Director which were reported on in 2004-05 (see page 353 of the Annual Report), indicate for each:
 - the topic and scope of the audit
 - when the audit was completed
 - when the audit was provided to the Department
 - when the audit was provided to the Minister
4. Can a copy of each of these audits please be provided?
5. In relation to the accountability audit requested by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration (see page 353 of the Annual Report), indicate:
 - when the request was made
 - the topic and scope of the audit requested
 - when the status of this audit (in progress/completed)
6. Have there been any other accountability audits either requested by the Government or initiated by the Director since 30 June 2005? If so, indicate the topic and scope of the audit.

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Answer:

1. Torres Strait Regional Authority (2004-05): completed, report sent to the Minister on 25 August 2005 for referral to the relevant portfolio Minister.

Native Title Representative Bodies: in progress, estimated date for completion 31 May 2006.

Third Party Funding Arrangements Follow-up: completed, advice sent to relevant departments on 19 August 2005.

Indigenous Community Housing Organisations: in progress, estimated date for completion 30 June 2006.

Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services: in progress, estimated date for completion 30 June 2006.

Croc Festivals: completed, report sent to the Minister on 12 January 2006 for referral to the relevant portfolio Minister.

Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (follow-up): completed, sent to the Minister on 9 December 2005 for referral to the relevant portfolio Minister.

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) Organisations: in progress, estimated date for completion 15 May 2006.

2. Telecommunication Action Plan for Remote Indigenous Communities (TAPRIC) – Community Phones Program: the efficiency and effectiveness of the administration of the Community Phones Program.

CDEP Performance Information: quality of performance information collected under the Community Development Employments Projects programme, and the extent to which it informs management decision-making and assists in measuring progress against achievement of the programme's aims.

Health Performance Framework: quality of performance information collected under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework.

3. Requested by the Minister:

Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (CYLC): audit the operations of CYLC, and its management and utilisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS) funding. Completed December 2004, report provided on 15 December 2004 to the Minister for forwarding to the relevant portfolio Minister.

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Anangu Pitjantjatjara: the operations of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara in its management of, and accounting for, funding for the Advancement of Rights to Land and Sea received from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services. Completed August 2004, report provided to the Minister on 23 August 2004 for forwarding to the relevant portfolio Minister.

Initiated by the Director:

Claims by a member of the public that a number of public servants were guilty of serious misconduct: completed in October 2004, response provided to the Minister on 25 October 2004.

Administration of grants to Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission's and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service's administration of funding to Cape York Land Council. Completed December 2004, report provided to the Minister on 22 December 2004 for forwarding to the relevant portfolio Minister.

4. These reports are "audit-in-confidence" and are internal working papers, deliberative in nature and therefore not available for release.

5. Papunya Community Council Inc (Papunya), request made on 20 May 2005. The objective was to evaluate and audit the activities of the Papunya, as they concerned its funding from Australian Government bodies under relevant programs, to determine whether it managed its funding in an efficient, effective and appropriate manner; and, to determine the veracity of a number of media allegations about Papunya's operations, so far as they concerned Papunya's use of Australian Government funding received under relevant programs. This audit has been completed.

6. There has been one accountability audit requested by the Government. Gumatj Association Incorporated (Gumatj): the objective of this evaluation/audit is to evaluate and audit the activities of Gumatj to determine whether funds received and used by Gumatj from the Australian Government, including from the Aboriginals Benefit Account ('ABA'), are used in an appropriate, effective and efficient manner.

There have been no accountability audits initiated by the Director.