

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 24 May-3rd June 2010

Question: PM77

Topic: Social Inclusion

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 June 2010

Number of pages: 5

- a) What is the role of PM & C in the government's social inclusion agenda?**
- b) Is this all met within the \$14.6 million 2008-09 budget measure (budget paper No. 2, pg. 278)?**
- c) Out of this funding, how much has been allocated to the Social Inclusion Unit over the forward estimates?**
- d) How much funding has been allocated to the Social Inclusion Board Secretariat over the forward estimates? Or are the Social Inclusion Unit and the Social Inclusion Board Secretariat the same thing?**
- e) How many people are employed within the Social Inclusion Unit and the Social Inclusion Board Secretariat in PM&C?**
- f) Is funding to the Social Inclusion Board met through the \$14.6 million 2008-09 budget measure (budget paper No. 2, pg. 278)?**
- g) How much funding has been allocated to the board over the forward estimates?**
- h) What allowances do the members of the Social Inclusion Board receive?**
- i) What expenses have the Social Inclusion Board incurred to date? Include travel, allowances, and publications.**
- j) How much funding was allocated to produce the statistical data published in the Board's 'Social Inclusion in Australia - How is Australia Faring' publication?**

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k) How much did it cost to print the publication 'Social Inclusion in Australia - How Australia is faring'?

l) How many copies were made of the publication 'Social Inclusion in Australia - How Australia is faring'?

m) Was that cost of the publication met within the \$14.6 million 2008-09 budget measure (budget paper No. 2, pg. 278)?

n) Is there a specific reason why the Social Inclusion Unit and the Social Inclusion Board secretariat are located in PM&C instead of Department who the Minister for Social Inclusion is responsible for?

Answer:

a) What is the role of PM & C in the government's social inclusion agenda?

The Social Inclusion Unit in the Department provides advice to Ministers, supports the Australian Social Inclusion Board and helps to progress the social inclusion agenda across all governments and other sectors.

b) Is this all met within the \$14.6 million 2008-09 budget measure (budget paper No. 2, pg. 278)?

Yes.

c) Out of this funding, how much has been allocated to the Social Inclusion Unit over the forward estimates?

The Department's forward estimates include the funding provided in the 2008-09 Budget measure (Budget Paper 2, Expense Measures Prime Minister and Cabinet, Social inclusion agenda) of \$3.555 million in 2010-11; \$3.304 million in 2011-12 and ongoing for the Social Inclusion Agenda. This is allocated to meet the Department's

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work to support the Government's social inclusion agenda, including the Australian Social Inclusion Board, Social Inclusion Unit, and associated overheads.

d) How much funding has been allocated to the Social Inclusion Board Secretariat over the forward estimates? Or are the Social Inclusion Unit and the Social Inclusion Board Secretariat the same thing?

The Social Inclusion Board Secretariat is a section within the Social Inclusion Unit at the Department. No funding is allocated directly to the Social Inclusion Board Secretariat as this funding is included in the overall allocation to the Social Inclusion Agenda.

e) How many people are employed within the Social Inclusion Unit and the Social Inclusion Board Secretariat in PM&C?

The ASL for the Social Inclusion Unit for 2009-2010, including full-time and part-time staff, was 16.62. This includes the Social Inclusion Board Secretariat.

f) Is funding to the Social Inclusion Board met through the \$14.6 million 2008-09 budget measure (budget paper No. 2, pg. 278)?

Yes.

g) How much funding has been allocated to the board over the forward estimates?

No funding has been directly allocated to the Social Inclusion Board. Funding is included in the overall allocation to the Social Inclusion Agenda.

h) What allowances do the members of the Social Inclusion Board receive?

Members of the Australian Social Inclusion Board receive sitting fees as set by the Remuneration Tribunal and receive reimbursement for the cost of their travel, accommodation and meals associated with Board activities.

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i) What expenses have the Social Inclusion Board incurred to date? Include travel, allowances, and publications.

The total expenses incurred by the Australian Social Inclusion Board from May 2008 to end of FY 2009-2010 are \$536,551.98, including travel and accommodation (\$221,098), sitting fees (\$88,542), allowances (\$4,101), publications (\$195,706.89, including \$82,825.25 for seconded APS staff to assist with compiling 'Social Inclusion in Australia – How is Australia Faring?') and other meeting costs (\$27,104). This does not include costs associated with the Secretariat function.

j) How much funding was allocated to produce the statistical data published in the Board's 'Social Inclusion in Australia - How is Australia Faring' publication?

There was not a specific allocation of funding.

k) Was that cost of the publication met within the \$14.6 million 2008-09 budget measure (budget paper No. 2, pg. 278)?

The total cost for concept, design, artwork and printing was \$28,843.10.

l) How many copies were made of the publication 'Social Inclusion in Australia - How Australia is faring'?

1500.

m) Was that cost of the publication met within the \$14.6 million 2008-09 budget measure (budget paper No. 2, pg. 278)?

Yes.

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n) Is there a specific reason why the Social Inclusion Unit and the Social Inclusion Board secretariat are located in PM&C instead of Department who the Minister for Social Inclusion is responsible for?

The Social Inclusion Unit was established in the Department to drive and coordinate a whole-of-government social inclusion agenda.