

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 Hearings 2005-2006, 31 October 2005

Question: PM 70

Outcome 1, Output 2.1

Topic: In relation to the Budget item, Indigenous Functions – new arrangements:

Direct on Notice:

Senator Chris Evans asked: In 2004-05, \$695,000 was spent under this item. Where is this money identified in the Budget papers? Please provide a specific breakdown of these funds and specific description of functions they are used for.

Answer: These funds are identified in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's 2005-06 Portfolio Budget Statement S4.3: *Australian Government Indigenous Expenditure* page 36. The \$695,000 was the amount allocated for supporting Social Policy Division from the redistribution of ATSIC funding. The Social Policy Division provides policy development and advice to the Prime Minister and his office on a broad range of social policy issues, including Indigenous affairs. The funding enhanced the capacity of the Indigenous Policy Branch to advise the Prime Minister and liaison with other agencies and stakeholders on Indigenous affairs' reforms. The funding also provided resources to support the new Secretariat support function.

The figure of \$731,000 shown for 2004-05 expenditure also includes \$36,000 expended in 2004-05 by the former Office of the Status of Women for the Prevention Against Domestic Violence initiative. This initiative was subsequently transferred to the Office for Women, located in the Department of Family and Community Services, as part of the machinery of Government changes.

Senator Chris Evans asked: Confirm that \$702,000 has been allocated for 2005-06? Where is this money identified in the Budget papers? What does the Department anticipate this will be spent on? Provide specific breakdown of the Budget allocations.

Answer: Yes \$702,000 has been allocated for 2005-06. The funds are identified at page 36 of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's 2005-06 Portfolio Budget Statements S4.3: *Australian Government Indigenous Expenditure* and will be used to support the Indigenous Policy Branch as detailed above.