

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011**

**Question: 108**

**Topic: Constitutional Recognition of Local Government - Updating Communities**

**Asked By: Senator JOYCE**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011**

**Number of pages: 2**

- a) How does the panel plan to keep all communities up to date with the process?
- b) Is there, or will there be any national advertising campaigns?
- c) If so, who will be funding these?

**Answer:**

- a) The Expert Panel's Terms of Reference includes the requirements to consult the Australian community and subsequently report to Government in December 2011. The Panel are keeping communities up to date with this process through a variety of mediums including:
  - advertisements in the early general news section of the major national, metropolitan and regional newspapers, and in the regional press;
  - radio advertisements in and around the region of most community meetings;
  - editorials offered to local government associations and national press;
  - establishing and maintaining the website [www.localgovrecognition.gov.au](http://www.localgovrecognition.gov.au);
  - media releases distributed widely to press, TV and radio media outlets and responding to requests for interviews; and
  - regular messages sent via Twitter and Facebook.

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- b) Advertising by the Panel is being undertaken as per the response to part (a) above.
- c) The Expert Panel has approved advertising, as mentioned in response to part (a), which is funded under the 2011-12 Budget allocation.