

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.1

Question No. 36

Senator Crossin tabled the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2006:

- a) Please provide the opening and closing dates for submissions under the National Community Crime Prevention Program (NCCPP) in the 2004-05 year and the 2005-06 year.
- b) Did your department or any other department within the Federal Government invite Hillsong Emerge Pty Ltd to make an application under the NCCPP program? If so, please attach copies of any correspondence between the relevant agency and Hillsong Emerge.
- c) Can you confirm the accuracy of the statement made by the Member for Mitchell, Mr Cadman MP in his adjournment speech on Thursday 16 February 2006, where he said:

“Hillsong Emerge is a separate and distinct organisation with a separate charter, management and legal entity. The reputation of this group was the reason why an invitation to submit an application to apply under the federal government’s crime prevention program was taken up by Hillsong Emerge.”

- d) Who invited Hillsong Emerge to apply under the NCCPP program?
- e) If an invitation was made to Hillsong Emerge, specify when the invitation was expressed to Hillsong Emerge.
- f) When did the Department become aware of the note from Hillsong Emerge CEO Leigh Coleman dated 22nd September 2005 in which he offered the Riverstone Aboriginal Community Association \$280 000 from the grant funds? How did the Department become aware?
- g) Upon becoming aware of Leigh Coleman's note, what actions did the Department take?
- h) In relation to Leigh Coleman's note, did the Department provide any advice to (a) Hillsong Emerge, (b) the Minister for Justice and Customs (c) the Attorney-General?
- i) Did the Department have knowledge of the note from Hillsong Emerge CEO Leigh Coleman dated 22 September 2005 prior to the meeting held 20 October 2005?
- j) In relation to the NCCPP Greater Western Sydney Advisory Group which provided advice on applications for the NCCPP:
 - i) Who is the Chair of the Advisory Group? Who was the Chair at the time Hillsong Emerge's application was assessed?
 - ii) What was the remuneration for the Chair of the Advisory Group?
 - iii) What work did the Chair perform?

- iv) What is the nature of the Chair's employment or retention?
- v) Who are the members of the Advisory Group and which Departments or agencies do they represent? Who were the members at the time Hillsong Emerge's application was assessed?
- vi) How many times did the Advisory Group meet to consider the short-listed applications? When did they meet?
- vii) Did the Chair of the Advisory Group meet with the Minister? On what dates? What was the purpose of the meetings?
- viii) When was advice provided on the eight successful projects? By: the Advisory Group and to whom. Please specify dates.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) The following dates cover all rounds of the National Community Crime Prevention Programme:
 - Round 1: advertised 23 May 2004; closed 30 June 2004.
 - Round 2: advertised 13 November 2004; closed 7 February 2005. Round 2 (Greater Western Sydney): advertised 19 February 2005; closed 29 April 2005.
 - Round 3: (including Greater Western Sydney) advertised 8 October 2005; closed 18 November 2005.
- b) The Attorney-General's Department is not aware of any invitation specifically extended to Hillsong Emerge Ltd. to submit an application under the NCCPP. However, all eligible organisations are routinely encouraged to submit applications for funding under the programme.
- c) Hillsong Emerge Ltd, is a public company, limited by guarantee and registered under the Corporations Act 2001 in NSW. See response to b) above.
- d) See response to Question 36 b) above.
- e) See response to Question 36 b) above.
- f) Hillsong Emerge Ltd. provided the Department with a copy of Mr Coleman's note on 12 October 2005.
- g) No action was taken on receipt of Mr Coleman's note as the Department had formally sought further information from Hillsong Emerge Ltd. on the proposed partnership arrangements on two occasions in September 2005, and had committed to meet with all the partners on 20 October 2005, at the request of Hillsong Emerge Ltd.
- h)
 - a) No.
 - b) No.
 - c) No.
- i) Yes. See response to Question (f).
- j) i) Mr Tim Priest.

- ii) Nil.
- iii) Chair the Meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Greater Western Sydney round which provided advice to the Minister for Justice and Customs on projects recommended for funding.
- iv) There is no employment associated with the advisory role of the Chair. All members of the Western Sydney Advisory Committee provide their services on a voluntary basis. Travel costs associated with meetings are met by the Attorney-General's Department.
- v) Current members of the Greater Western Sydney Advisory Group are:
Mr Tim Priest (Chair); Winsome Matthews, Aboriginal community representative; Audrey Fagan, ACT Chief Police Officer; Ms Irene Ross, Manager, Blacktown Migrant Resource Centre; Dr Toni Makkai, Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology; and
Dr Dianne Heriot, Assistant Secretary Criminal Justice Division Attorney-General's Department.

In July 2005, Ms Joanne Blackburn, First Assistant Secretary Criminal Justice Division, was the Departmental member of the Advisory Committee, but was represented by Dr Dianne Heriot at the meeting on 25 July 2005.

- vi) In relation to the round in question, the Greater Western Sydney Advisory Group met on 25 July 2005.
- vii) No.
- viii) The Advisory Committee provided its recommendations to the Attorney-General's Department on 25 July 2005. The Department advised the Minister for Justice and Customs on the projects recommended for funding by the Advisory Committee on 2 August 2005.