

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 November 2002**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(14) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy**

Senator Ludwig (L&C 12) asked, "Has the Minister formed a view on whether the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act should be the jurisdiction of the Northern Territory government?"

*Answer:*

The Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Philip Ruddock MP, released an options paper on reform of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* in April 2002 to selected stakeholders. The paper canvassed possible reforms to the Act including changes to the role of the Northern Territory government. The Minister has not finally considered the issues in the options paper.

In an article in the *Northern Territory News* on 8 September 2002 the Minister asked whether it was time for the Northern Territory government to assume a greater role in administration of the Act.

On Northern Territory ABC radio on 20 September 2002 the Minister confirmed that a greater Northern Territory role in the Act was one of the issues in the options paper. The Minister stated that he believed it was appropriate that this issue was included in the options paper.

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### **(15) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy**

Senator Ludwig (L&C 13) asked:

- a) Are you aware of the Northern Territory or the land council's view on whether or not they would want the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act to be handed back?"
- b) Can you check whether the Chief Minister said, in a press release, that she had no interest in repatriating the Act?

*Answer:*

- a) The Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, the Hon Clare Martin MLA, said on Northern Territory ABC radio on 19 September 2002 that patriation of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* was not on the Northern Territory government's agenda.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Land Council, Mr Norman Fry, said on Northern Territory ABC radio on 20 September 2002 that patriation of the Act was not being discussed or on the agenda of discussions on the Act with the Northern Territory government.

- b) We are not aware of any press release by the Chief Minister to that effect.

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**(16) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy**

Senator Ludwig (L&C 13) asked:

- (a) Has the Minister or your department received any representations about whether the tent embassy should remain or about its future?
- (b) If so, what was the nature of those representations?

*Answer:*

- (a) Both the Minister and the Department have received correspondence about the tent embassy from the general public.
- (b) The nature of the correspondence has varied from support for the tent embassy to criticism of it.

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### **(17) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy**

Senator Ludwig (L&C 15) asked that the number, geographical location and organisation types of the Link Up counsellors be provided.

*Answer:*

There are two separate programmes funded by the Commonwealth in relation to the *Bringing Them Home* report, Link Up family tracing and reunion services through ATSIIC, and specialist counsellors through the Department of Health and Ageing. The specialist counsellors tend to be located in Aboriginal community controlled health organisations. The counsellors have been located in the organisations shown in the attached table.

## Counsellor positions filled as at 31 December 2001

State/ Territory	Organisation	Positions Funded	Positions Filled
South Australia	<b>Adelaide (1)</b> Nunkuwarrin Yunti Incorporated	1	1
	<b>Murray Bridge (1)</b> Kalparrin	1	1
	<b>Port Augusta (1)</b> Pika Wiya Health Services Incorporated	1	1
	<b>Cooper Pedy (1)</b> Umooona Tjutagku health Service Inc	1	1
	<b>Port Lincoln (+ Add'l)</b> Port Lincoln Aboriginal health Service Incorporated	1	1
	<b>Mt Gambier + Add'l)</b> South East Nungas Community Organisation	2	0
	<b>Berri (1)</b> Riverland Aboriginal Alcohol Program Incorporated	1	1
	<b>Port Piri (0.5)</b> Mid North Regional Health Service	0.5	0.5
	<b>Ceduna (1)</b> Ceduna/Kooniba Aboriginal health Service Incorporated	1	1
	<b>Greta (Point Pearce) (0.5)</b> Goreta Aboriginal Corporation	0.5	0.5
	<b>Additional Positions (2 yrs) (3) – (Mar'01)</b> South East Nungas Community Organisation	1	0
	Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service Incorporated	1	1
	Ceduna/Kooniba Aboriginal Health Service Incorporated	1	1
	Western Australia	<b>Perth (2)</b> Derbarl Yerrigan health Service Incorporated	2
<b>Derby (1)</b> Derby Aboriginal health Service Council Aboriginal Corp		1	0
<b>Kununurra (1)</b> East Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service Aboriginal Corp		1	1
<b>Halls Creek (1)</b> Yura Yungi Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation		1	1
<b>Port Hedland (1)</b> Wirraka Maya Health Services Aboriginal Corporation		1	1
<b>Roebourne (1)</b> Mawarnkarra Health Service Aboriginal Corporation		1	1
<b>Carnarvon (1)</b> Carnarvon Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation		1	0
<b>Geraldton (1)</b> Geraldton Regional Aboriginal medical Service		1	1
<b>Bunbury (1+1)</b> South West Aboriginal Medical Service Inc.		2	1
<b>Kalgoorlie (2)</b> Bega Gambirringu Health Service		2	1
<b>Albany (1+1)</b> Southern Aboriginal Corporation		2	2
<b>Additional Positions (2yrs) (4)-(Mar'01)</b> Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service Incorporated		1	1
Southern Aboriginal Corporation		1	1
South West Aboriginal Medical Service Inc.		1	1
Ngaanyatjarra Health Service		1	0

<b>State/ Territory</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Positions Funded</b>	<b>Positions Filled</b>
<b>Tasmania</b>	<b>Hobart (South) (1)</b> Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Incorporated	1	1
	<b>Launceston (North) (1)</b> Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Incorporated	1	1
<b>ACT</b>	Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Clinic	2	2
	<b>Additional Positions (2yrs) (2)</b> Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Clinic	2	2
<b>NT</b>	<b>Darwin (3+1)</b> Danila Dilba Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation	4	3
	<b>Tennant Creek (1)</b> Anyinginyi Congress Aboriginal Corporation	1	1
	<b>Katherine (1+1)</b> Wurli-Wirlinjang Aboriginal Corporation	2	2
	<b>Alice Springs (3)</b> Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Incorporated	3	3
	<b>Additional Positions (2yrs) (7)</b> Danila Dilba Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation	1	
	Anyinginyi Congress Aboriginal Corporation	2	2
	Wurli-Wirlinjang Aboriginal Corporation	2	0
	Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Incorporated	2	0
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>Brisbane (1)</b> Aboriginal & Islander Community Health Service – Brisbane	1	1
	<b>Rockhampton (1+1)</b> Bidgerdii ATSI Corp Community Health Service	2	1
	<b>Mt Isa (1+1)</b> Injilinjji Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation	2	2
	<b>Mackay (1)</b> Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service – Mackay Ltd	1	2
	<b>Cunnamulla (1)</b> Cunnamulla Aboriginal Corporation for Health	1	0
	<b>Cairns (1)</b> Wuchopperen Medical Service Ltd	1	1
	<b>Dalby (1)</b> Goondir Aboriginal Corporation for Health Services	1	1
	<b>Townsville (1)</b> Townsville Aboriginal & Islander Health Service Ltd	1	1
	<b>Cape York (1)</b> Queensland Department of Health	1	0
	<b>Torres Strait (1)</b> Queensland Department of Health	1	0
	<b>Additional Position (2yrs) (7)</b> Mulungu	1	0
	Mackay	1	
	Cape York Health District	1	0
	Townsville A & I Health Service (Townsville/Palm Island)	1	0
	Goondir Aboriginal Corporation for Health Services	1	0
	Kambu Medical Centre Ipswich Incorporated	1	0
	Old Aboriginal & Islander Health Forum (QAIHF)	1	1

<b>State/ Territory</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Positions Funded</b>	<b>Positions Filled</b>	
<b>VIC</b>	<b>Melbourne (1)</b> Victorian Aboriginal Health Service Co-operative	1	1	
	<b>Ballarat (1.5)</b> Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-Op	1.5	1.5	
	<b>Horsham (0.5)</b> Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-Op	0.5	0.5	
	<b>Shepparton (1)</b> Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative	1	1	
	<b>Warrnambool (0.5)</b> Gunditjmara Aboriginal Co-operative	0.5	0.5	
	<b>Bairnsdale – Woolartbe Werna (A'ddl)</b> Gippsland & East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-Op	1	1	
	<b>Mildura (0.5)</b> Mildura Aboriginal Corporation	0.5	0.5	
	<b>Morwell (1.5)</b> Central Gippsland Aboriginal Health & Housing Co-op	1.5	1.5	
	<b>Loddon Mallee (0.5)</b> Swan Hill and District Aboriginal Co-op	0.5	0.5	
	<b>Purnim (0.5)</b> Kirrae Whurrong	0.5	0.5	
	<b>Heywood (0.5)</b> Winda Mara	0.5	0.5	
	<b>Robinvale (0.5)</b> Murray Valley Aboriginal Co-operative	0.5	0.5	
	<b>Echuca (0.5)</b> Njernda Aboriginal Corporation	0.5	0	
	<b>Additional Positions (2yrs)</b> Swan Hill and District Aboriginal Co-op	0.5	0	
	Njernda Aboriginal Corporation	0.5	0	
	Mungabareena Aboriginal Corp	0.5	0	
	Dandenong & District Aboriginal Co-op (Sth Metro & Mornington Pen)	0.5	0	
	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Wagga (1)</b> Riverina Medical & Dental Aboriginal Corporation	1	1
		<b>Moree (1)</b> Pius X Aboriginal Corporation	1	1
		<b>Armidale (1)</b> Armidale and District Service Incorporation	1	1
		<b>Walgett (1)</b> Walgett Aboriginal Medical Services Co-operative	1	1
		<b>Wellington (1)</b> Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service	1	1
		<b>Bourke (1)</b> Bourke Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service	1	1
		<b>Brewarrina (1)</b> Brewarrina Aboriginal Health Centre Ltd	1	1
		<b>Shoalhaven (add'l)</b> South Coast Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation	1	1
		<b>Additional Positions (2 yrs) (9)+(1)</b> Katungul Aboriginal Corp	1	1
Armidale and District Service Incorporation		1	1	
Awabakal Newcastle Aboriginal Co-op		1	0	
Benelong's Haven Ltd		1	1	
Biripi Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre		1	1	
Illawarra Aboriginal medical Services (Aboriginal Corp)		1	0	
Riverina Medical & Dental Aboriginal Corporation		1	1	
Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation		1	0	
Walhallow Aboriginal Corporation		1	1	
Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service		1	1	
		<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>75.5</b>

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### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 November 2002

#### IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

##### (18) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy

Senator Ludwig (L&C 17) asked:

Regarding the commissioning by the ministerial council of an independent evaluation of all government and non-government responses to the *Bringing Them Home* report:

- (a) How much has been allocated in the budget for that, whether it was a tender process to determine who would then undertake the project, how was the selection process done, and whether the funding comes out of the Office of Indigenous Affairs or elsewhere?
- (b) Could you also provide the number of employees and the salaries that have been part of it, where the funding came from, if there is a survey, where the questions have come from, whether the Minister ticked off on the survey, where the survey has been sent, how you determined who would and who would not receive the survey or whether that was left in the hands of consultants and, if so, whether that is in their interim report back to you about the process?
- (c) Has it been audited yet?
- (d) When is it likely to be completed and when will the results be made available?
- (e) When the results are made available, could you provide them to the Committee?

*Answer:*

- (a) A sum of approximately \$100,000 was agreed by the Ministerial Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (MCATSI) for the independent evaluation of government and non-government responses to the *Bringing Them Home* report. A steering committee was established to oversight the project, comprising representatives of OATSIA, ATSIC, and the NSW, Victoria and Queensland Departments of Indigenous Affairs. The consultancy is being managed by OATSIA. The terms of reference were agreed by the Standing Committee of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and the project was put to select tender early in the year. Of the three consultancies which tendered for the project, Successworks Pty Ltd was selected by the steering committee to undertake the project for a fee of \$108,680. The project is not funded by the Office of Aboriginal and Torres



Strait Islander Affairs, but by MCATSIA.

- (b) The contract is for the provision of services. Information on the number of employees and their salaries was not a consideration in the tender process. The consultants developed a survey to help in their analysis. The questions were developed by the consultants. The survey was not put to the Minister for approval. The survey was sent to a wide range of relevant individuals and organisations such as government agencies, service providers (federal, state and non-government), church organisations, and separated children organisations including the National Sorry Day Committee. The list was developed by the consultants. The consultants determined where the survey would be sent. OATSIA provided some input on possible recipients. The Steering Committee has been kept informed on the process Successworks was following through periodic meetings.
- (c) The project is not completed and has not been audited.
- (d) A report is due to be completed in the first half of 2003, and will be made available to MCATSIA at this time.
- (e) Public release of the report is a matter for the Ministerial Council.

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### **(19) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy**

Senator Crossin (L&C 17) asked:

- (a) Can you advise whether the selection of the organisation chosen to run the survey was by publicly advertised tender or selective tender by invitation?
- (b) Provide a list of the people who sat on the committee that awarded or considered that tender.

*Answer:*

- (a) The project was put to select tender.
- (b) One representative from each of the following organisations is on the steering committee which selected the tender for the MCATSIA *Bringing Them Home* evaluation:

Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, DIMIA  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission  
Department of Aboriginal Affairs, NSW  
Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Victoria  
Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, Queensland

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### **(20) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy**

Senator Ludwig (L&C 23-24) asked:

In relation to the whole of government trial of 10 CPA communities:

- a) Is the funding coming from the \$30.5 million for capacity building or is it coming from a different buck in relation to it?
- b) Have the 10 communities been identified? What selection process identified them? Was there a lead agency or person who then identified the 10 communities?
- c) Did the selection panel talk to ATSIC to establish that these communities were ones for whom ATSIC would agree it would be necessary or helpful to have whole of government approach as a trialing process?
- d) How is the whole of government funding going to be initiated from other departments? Mr Abbot might be a good example – is he also utilising funds from within the department to assist in the whole of government approach? If so, how much is going into the pilot program?

*Answer:*

- a) The whole of government activity is not funded from the \$30.5 million, which is specifically for ATSIC Community Participation Agreements. There is no additional amount of funding specifically targeted to the COAG trial regions. The whole of government initiative is primarily focussed on using existing resources more effectively to meet needs and priorities identified by Indigenous communities. Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments have committed to work together with Indigenous communities in a number of regions to deliver programmes and services in a more coordinated and flexible way.
- b) Cape York and Wadeye have been publicly announced and further announcements are expected shortly, following agreement between government and community to the announcement.

The regions are being identified through a process of consultation between the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments. These consultations are led by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (supported by ATSIC and the Indigenous Communities Coordination Taskforce) at the Commonwealth level and by Premiers/Chief Ministers Departments (supported by Aboriginal Affairs portfolios) at the State/Territory level. The identification of communities or regions is in all cases subject to the willingness of the community or region to participate. ATSIC provides the initial advice on which communities/regions

should be approached.

The criteria for identifying communities or regions are:

- community readiness and willingness to engage;
- existing Commonwealth and State/Territory involvement and support;
- assurance that any new or different arrangements introduced in working with government will not place undue demands on a community; and
- likely sustainability of the initiative.

c) Yes – see (b) above.

d) In each trial site a Commonwealth Secretary has been identified as the sponsor for the region, with that Secretary's Department taking a lead role in coordinating across other Commonwealth agencies and with State or Territory agencies in that region. The lead agencies are assisted by the Indigenous Communities Coordination Taskforce and ATSIC.

The fact that Mr Abbott's Department has a lead agency role in a particular community does not mean that his Department utilises only its own funds, but rather it coordinates across all agencies to ensure a whole of government response to agreed community priorities and outcomes.

At the national level a Commonwealth Secretaries Group has been established to lead the coordination across all Commonwealth agencies, supported by the Indigenous Communities Coordination Taskforce. The ATSIC CEO is a member of the Secretaries Group.

There is no additional amount of funding specifically targeted to the trial regions (see (a) above).