

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(249) Output 3.1: Whole-of-Government Coordination of Policy Development and Service Delivery for Indigenous Australians

Senator Siewert asked:

ICCs are tasked with working directly with Indigenous communities to determine their priorities and needs and their longer term vision for the future – as a basis for the negotiation of Shared Responsibility Agreements (SRAs) and Regional Partnership Agreements (RPAs).

DIMIA has emphasised in its advocacy of ICCs as partnerships based on shared responsibility with Indigenous people that “...this new approach gets community members working towards common community goals that improve outcomes for people in the community.” [ICC homepage]

What is the mechanism by which these communities determine their common goals? Is it a democratic and representative process? Can communities determine their goals and priorities and the allocation of resources through ICCs?

Answer:

It is the communities themselves who decide their goals, the areas they wish to address and what they need from government in order to address them.

Communities may choose to involve their local ICC Manager in discussions about their goals and priorities. Funding is available to communities to support community planning and the development of a long term vision to use as the basis for RPA and SRA negotiations with the ICC.

Distribution of program funding resources is based on community identified priorities and Australian Government agencies' assessment of need. SRAs to date have typically focused on a small number of community priorities and more comprehensive SRA work is being developed over time.