

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Siewert asked:

Regional Representation

1. How many regional structures have been established to date?
2. How many RPAs have been signed?
3. What types of things do they cover?

Answer:

1. Two regional engagement arrangements are operational at present, Murdi Paaki and Nganyatjarra.
2. One RPA has been signed with the Ngaanyatjarra Council which represents 13 communities in the Warburton region. This RPA is on www.indigenous.gov.au
3. The Ngaanyatjarra RPA covers the 12 communities of the remote Ngaanyatjarra Lands: Cosmo Newberry, Tjirrkarli, Irrunytju (Wingellina), Tjukurla, Kiwirrkurra, Wanarn, Mantamaru (Jameson), Warakurna, Papulankutja (Blackstone), Pira-kata (Kanpa), Patjarr and Warburton.

Through the RPA, governments, the Ngaanyatjarra Council and Ngaanyatjarra people will work together to improve services, reduce red tape, develop a 20-30 year vision and investment plan for the area, and establish meaningful representative arrangements.

As part of the RPA, three SRAs were signed with communities in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands.

The first SRA deals with municipal and essential services and covers most of the communities. The Australian and Western Australian Governments will work with local people to determine how services will be better delivered.

The second SRA supports the Wanarn community's priorities of developing the store and encouraging more involvement from young people. A new store will be built and the community will convert the old store into a youth centre. Government will provide retail and nutrition training for the store and a youth worker for the young people. Two youth positions will be created on the community council, as well as a youth council.

The third SRA, with Warburton community, also supports young people. The community want to assist young people who have already left school, but are not ready to enrol in formal training. Up to 75 young people will take part in an education program developed for them, which will include online training as well as on-site trainers at different stages of the project.

In Murdi Paaki, the Regional Assembly is the peak regional Indigenous community structure in the Murdi Paaki region, representing 15 Community Working Parties. It was established in 2005 after the cessation of the ATSIC Regional Councils. An SRA was signed with the Assembly on 1 August 2005 as an amendment to the Regional Agreement signed in 2003. The Assembly automatically becomes the partner to the SRAs signed with the former ATSIC Regional Council, and has a continuing role in coordinating government activities affecting Indigenous people in the region. It will also work with communities and governments to implement the Assembly's regional plan.