

North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency

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10 March 2010

Senator Rachel Siewert
Community Affairs References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Senator Siewert

Inquiry into Hearing Health in Australia – Question on Notice

Thank you for the opportunity to provide evidence to the Community Affairs References Committee hearing in Darwin on 16 February 2010. Thank you also for the further opportunity to provide information, in the form of a question on notice (see CA 99 of the Transcript):

CHAIR—On notice, would NAAJA be able to provide us with information on how much you as an organisation pay for interpreters each financial year, obviously looking at issues around hearing impairment? I am aware that there are issues around interpreters for spoken languages as well, in cases where English is a second or third language, so you would probably be paying interpreters for that as well. If you could give us information on interpreters for people with hearing impairments and on interpreters in general so that we can have a bit of a comparison, that would be extremely useful.

In terms of the total amount expended by NAAJA on interpreters, we can advise that for the 2008/2009 financial year, NAAJA utilised interpreters to the value of \$322,192. These funds were provided to the Aboriginal Interpreters Service from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

We have been advised by our Finance Officer that we only seldom used hearing interpreters in the 2008/2009 financial year, and that this would have been once or twice at most.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information about the above matters.

Yours faithfully,
North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency Ltd


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