

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO SENATE INQUIRY INTO PETROL SNIFFING AND SUBSTANCE
ABUSE IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

12 March 2009

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 1

Topic: Senate Inquiry into Petrol Sniffing and Substance Abuse in Central Australia

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

In evidence to the committee in the Canberra hearing on 12/03/09, in relation to my questions about the tender for school holiday youth diversionary programs for 2007/08 for the communities in the central region Steve Vaughan stated that the Central Australia Youth Linkup Service (CAYLUS) had been invited to tender.

Is this a correct representation of events?

Answer:

The Department would clarify its response as follows.

No organisations were invited to tender for the 2007-08 school holiday program. CAYLUS was invited to tender for the 2008-09 school holiday program.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO SENATE INQUIRY INTO PETROL SNIFFING AND SUBSTANCE
ABUSE IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

12 March 2009

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 2

Topic: Senate Inquiry into Petrol Sniffing and Substance Abuse in Central Australia

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

My office has contacted CAYLUS to follow up on this issue. They have informed us that they sent a letter of complaint to CAPSSU about the tender process, and subsequently met with Kathleen Anderson from CAPSSU on 12 December 2007 in Alice Springs to discuss their concerns.

I note that in answers to questions on notice to Senate Additional Estimates in February 2008 (as attached) FaHCSIA stated that there had been no complaints about CAPSSU. The existence of this letter of complaint appears to contradict this evidence.

Does CAPSSU or FaHCSIA wish to seek to correct this evidence to the Senate?

Answer:

FaHCSIA would like to correct the evidence presented to the Senate. A complaint from CAYLUS was received by the Department. CAPSSU subsequently met with CAYLUS to discuss the matter. A written response was then sent to CAYLUS by FaHCSIA's Northern Territory State Manager.

The response provided at the February 2008 Senate Additional Estimates hearing arose because this information had not at that stage been registered on the Department's Complaint Management System. The Department has reviewed and is implementing revised complaint handling procedures.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO SENATE INQUIRY INTO PETROL SNIFFING AND SUBSTANCE
ABUSE IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

12 March 2009

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 3

Topic: Senate Inquiry into Petrol Sniffing and Substance Abuse in Central Australia

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

I note that in the minutes of the meeting with CAYLUS on 12 December 2007 record that CAYLUS expressed their disappointment with the lack of communication from CAPSSU and asserted that they were not informed by Mr Vaughan of the availability of any funding for holiday program provision. The minutes do not record any contradiction to this assertion and in fact state "it is acknowledged there had been a lack of communication by CAPSSU".

Does CAPSSU wish to seek to correct this evidence to the Senate Inquiry?

Answer:

There was a lack of communication between CAPSSU and CAYLUS during the initial stages of the roll out of the Northern Territory Emergency Response. The Department did, however meet with CAYLUS soon after to discuss their concerns. Following on from these discussions, CAPSSU has worked to strengthen its relationship with CAYLUS and to better understand its work.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO SENATE INQUIRY INTO PETROL SNIFFING AND SUBSTANCE
ABUSE IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

12 March 2009

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 5

Topic: Senate Inquiry into Petrol Sniffing and Substance Abuse in Central Australia

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) Are you aware of reports of a retailer in Alice Springs who is now selling unleaded fuel at the bowser?
- b) What action is CAPSSU taking to tackle this problem?

Answer:

- a) The business in question is a wholesaler of petrol not a general retailer. The business does not sell to the general public, only to persons who have an account with them. They do not advertise that they stock regular unleaded petrol.
- b) CAPSSU has spoken to the business. The decision to stock regular unleaded petrol is a business decision. CAPSSU is continuing to monitor the situation.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO SENATE INQUIRY INTO PETROL SNIFFING AND SUBSTANCE
ABUSE IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

12 March 2009

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 6

Topic: Senate Inquiry into Petrol Sniffing and Substance Abuse in Central Australia

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- a) Are you aware that the retailer who was selling Opal in Halls Creek (WA) has reverted to selling unleaded fuel? What is your understanding of why this has taken place?
- b) Has there been any discussion between the Government and the retailer?
- c) Is there another retailer in Halls Creek refusing to take Opal?

Answer:

- a) The retailer in question, Poinciana Roadhouse has not ordered or supplied petrol for approximately four months as they are renovating the site. The Roadhouse is currently in negotiations with BP to stock Opal fuel. Once the renovations have been completed (in approximately three to four weeks), we understand that it will order and stock Opal fuel.
- b) CAPSSU contacted the Roadhouse to establish its approach to Opal fuel.
- c) Yes, a Shell service station.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO SENATE INQUIRY INTO PETROL SNIFFING AND SUBSTANCE
ABUSE IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

12 March 2009

Output Group: 1.2

Question No: 7

Topic: Senate Inquiry into Petrol Sniffing and Substance Abuse in Central Australia

Hansard Page: Page 12

Senator Siewert asked:

Are any of the following stores approved for the BasicsCard?

- Laramba
- Maryvale Station
- Ti Tree Roadhouse
- Tilmouth Well Roadhouse
- Cadney Park
- Jervois Roadhouse
- Rabbit Flat Roadhouse
- Ross River Resort
- Urandangi Community Store

Answer:

The BasicsCard is approved for Laramba and Ti Tree Roadhouse.

A decision is pending on whether the Tilmouth Well Roadhouse will be approved. The other locations have not been approved.