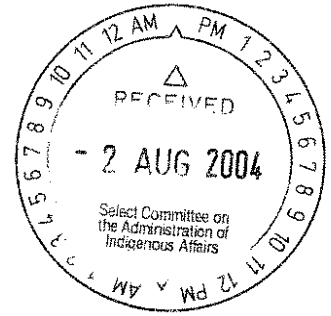


Senate Select Committee on the
Administration of Indigenous Affairs

Questions & issues arising from 29 June 2004
Proof Hansard



1. Agreed to provide the Committee with a list of ATSIC/ATSIS offices in regional and remote Australia (ie the pre 1 July offices). Page 6, Senator O'Brien

The following is a list of ATSIC/ATSIS Offices in Regional and Remote Australia prior to 1 July 2004:

Geraldton
Kalgoorlie
Sth Hedland
Broome
Derby
Kununurra
Nhulunbuy
Katherine
Tennant Creek
Alice Springs
Cairns
Townsville
Rockhampton
Mt Isa
Roma
Coff's Harbour
Bourke
Wagga Wagga
Tamworth
Queanbeyan
Pt Augusta
Ceduna

2. Agreed to provide the Committee with the value of ATSICs major assets (home loan portfolio, business loan portfolio, certain pastoral properties and the Regional Land Fund). Page 9, Senator Johnston

The following are the draft values as at 30 June 2004. (NB they are unaudited and therefore subject to possible change following the ANAO review):

Program Assets

Pastoral leases etc	\$11,801,701
Business loans (net of doubtful debts)	\$43,523,680
Home loans (net of doubtful debts)	\$339,335,706
Regional Land Fund:	\$9,330,714

<u>Other non Program Assets</u>	
Staff housing	\$28,591,150
Software	\$ 2,394,106
Office Land and Buildings	\$ 1,135,000
Office Improvements	\$ 9,050,808
Office Equipment	\$ 1,503,856
Office Furniture	\$ 48,150
Artworks and Artefacts	\$ 1,763,750
Motor Vehicle Accessories	\$ 1,000
Computer Equipment	\$ 1,138,194
Finance Lease Agreements – IT Equipment	\$ 1,989,618

- 3. Agreed to provide the Committee with the exact direct costs of running the board (of Commissioners) in 2004/05. Page 11, Senator Johnston**

The approved Budget for running the ATSIC Board of Commissioners for 2004-05 is \$3,137,819.

- 4. Agreed to provide the Committee with the precise number of staff who will lose their jobs as of 1 July (or before) as a result of administrative changes. Page 15, Senator O'Brien**

A total of 32 staff ceased to be employed by ATSIC as at 30 June 2004. This is made up of 18 Personal Assistants (PA) and 14 Research Officers (RO). Of these 15 PAs and 8 ROs had their non ongoing (temporary) employment terminated. 3 PAs and 6 ROs returned to their on going positions in ATSSIS.

- 5. Agreed to double check the budget allocation for the Regional Councils for 2004/05. Page 17, Senator O'Brien**

The Budget for Regional Councils for 2004-05 is \$12,130,474.

- 6. Agreed to advise the Committee of whether there are any restrictions on who can hold shares in Yeperenye shopping centre and Imparja TV. Page 25, Senator O'Brien**

There do not appear to be any restrictions on who may hold shares in Yeperenye.

Clause 8(b) of the constitution of Imparja Television Pty Ltd provides: "Only an Aboriginal corporation may hold shares in and be a Member of the company".

An 'Aboriginal Corporation' is defined as " a body corporate established by statute or under a law for the incorporation of Aboriginal Associations, whose objects are representing, providing services etc to Aboriginal

people and whose assets on a winding up are not distributed to any Members but are to be applied for the education, health and other charitable purpose for Aboriginal people."

This means that there are 4 qualifications for a shareholder:

- i) It must be an Aboriginal Corporation,
- ii) being a body corporate established by statute or under a law for the incorporation of Aboriginal associations,
- iii) whose objects are representing, providing services to or furthering the interests of Aboriginal people, and
- iv) whose assets on winding up are not distributed to Members but applied for the education, health and other charitable purposes for Aboriginal people.

7. Agreed to provide the Committee with a copy of the register of assets that would transfer after 1 July. Page 26, Senator O'Brien

Attachment A provides a summary and detailed register of ATSIC assets in place as at 30 June 2004.

8. Agreed to advise the Committee of other provisions (aside from items 129-152) which are relevant to the ILC. Page 27, Senator O'Brien

Apart from items 129-152 in Schedule 1 of the ATSIC Amendment Bill the following provisions also affect the ILC:

Schedule 1

Item 5 - consequential

Item 28 - consequential (see item 193 below)

Item 160 - new s200B(2)(d) - consequential

Items 169-171 - consequential

Items 191-192 - these provisions transfer class B exempted assets, liabilities and instruments to the ILC

Item 193 - this provides that, until 30 June 2005, Regional Land Fund money may only be spent in accordance with Regional Council proposals

Item 194 - this transfers pending proceedings in relation to class B exempted assets, liabilities and instruments to the ILC

Items 196-200 - these provisions are consequential to the transfer of class B exempted assets, liabilities and instruments to the ILC. They deal with certification of class B assets, liabilities and instruments; taxation; repayment of grants from the Regional Land Fund; restrictions on

disposals of interests in land; and the conversion of certain liabilities to ATSIIC to interests of the ILC in land.

Item 204 - deals with the cessation of ATSIIC commissioners as ILC Board members

Item 206 - saves certain rights of review of decisions made by ATSIIC before the transfer day

Item 207 - provides rights of review of decisions to give notices under item 198

Schedule 2

The provisions covering the functions of OEA in Part 1 - the ILC will be an 'Australian Government body' which OEA can evaluate

Item 6 - allows the OEA to continue current evaluations including those related to the ILC

9. Where is the \$79 million in savings that was mentioned in the explanatory memorandum? How do we derive that? Page 30, Senator Johnston

The \$79m is made up of two components. \$55.1m being expenditure not required if ATSIIC ceased to exist from 1 July 2004 and \$24m being appropriation offsets to ATSIIC agreed by the Government.

10. Agreed to provide the Committee with a list of where ICCs will be located and how many officers (understood to be "offices") are going to be in Western Australia. Page 32, Senators Crossin and Johnston

ICC offices (rural and remote) are located in Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Sth Hedland, Broome, Derby and Kununurra. A metro ICC is located in Perth.

11. Were Community Housing and Infrastructure Program funds provided in relation to any of the pools that were announced in the "no school no pool" program and in particular the \$500,000 allocated to Milikapiti? Page 41, Senator Crossin

No CHIP funds were used for "no school - no pool" initiatives announced by Minister Vanstone in June 2004.

Assets at 30 JUNE 2004

Class		Valuation as at 30/6/2004
Staff Land and Buildings	\$	28,591,150.00
Program Assets	\$	11,931,701.00
Software	\$	2,394,106.00
Office Land and Buildings	\$	1,135,000.00
sub total	\$	44,051,957.00
Office Improvements	\$	9,050,808.64
Office Equipment	\$	1,503,855.69
Office Furniture	\$	48,150.00
Artwork and Artefacts	\$	1,763,750.00
Motor Vehicle Accessories	\$	1,000.00
Computer Equipment	\$	1,138,194.00
Finance Lease Agreement - IT Equipment	\$	1,989,617.78
sub total	\$	15,495,376.11
Total	\$	59,547,333.11

Note: Office Improvements relate directly to the Office Buildings