

## SELECT COMMITTEES ON ESTIMATES 2008-2009

### Question on Notice

#### Minister for Indigenous Affairs

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*Community groups fund*

**Dr Foskey:** To ask the Minister for Indigenous Affairs –

1. Which community groups will be funded to work with departments on the *Integrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Support Service*?
2. What is the current status of the *Indigenous Residential Alcohol and Other Drug Rehabilitation Facility*?

**Ms Gallagher :** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. No community group will receive specific funding to work with the Department on this initiative. This initiative, facilitates Government agencies working with vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to build on their strengths, identify and develop families own strategies for responding to the issues they face, and link participating families to existing support programs and services.
2. ACT Health convened a meeting with key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community stakeholders in October 2007 to provide an update on progress on the rehabilitation service and invite participation in a consultative committee to negotiate the details of an agreed model of care and assess facility/site options.

In November 2007, ACT Health established the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Residential Rehabilitation Services Reference Group*. This Reference Group comprises members of the former ACT COAG Trials Indigenous Working Group involved in the original feasibility planning, augmented by representatives from Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service, Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation, Ngunnawal Elders Council and ACT Government representatives.

In order to provide final recommendations on the proposed residential service, the Reference Group engaged consultancy expertise through a series of half-day meetings in November, December 2007 and February, March, May 2008. The Reference Group continue to meet and are currently working on finalising their advice to the ACT

Government on governance models, site options, service model and consultation strategy for the establishment of the Residential Rehabilitation Service.

An Advisory Board will be established to guide the development of the Service and inform final decisions in relation to the project. The Board will also guide the development of a future incorporated organisation, which will later assume greater responsibility for the Service. To this end the Reference Group has commenced meeting with key Aboriginal organisations in the ACT requesting nominations for membership on the Advisory Board and providing organisations with an opportunity to identify future options for partnerships with the Service.

The need to secure an appropriate site, undertake the necessary construction and/or refurbishment work, refine a service model and recruit and train appropriate staff, make it likely that the service will not commence operation for up to one to two years.

*The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body*

**Mr Seselja:** To ask the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

In relation to: The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB)

1. What is the estimated annual budget to support the work of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB) for 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?
2. To what degree does the annual budget for ATSIEB incorporate the costs of the Office of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs, or separate out some of the costs of the Office of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs which are not related to ATSIEB?
3. What is the anticipated level of expenditure on legal advice and legal services like for ATSIEB over the forward estimates and how much of a spike is expected in the initial stages?
4. What are the accommodation arrangements for ATSIEB? How much space is provided for staff, for meeting rooms and for community consultations? What is the cost for accommodation? Will the location of the organisation be fixed for a certain period, or is this open to review in the early stages of the organisation's development?
5. Will any of the accountability indicators be changed for the 2009 ACT budget to accommodate reporting on Indigenous representation and support, and how might the new accountability indicators be constructed?
6. What are the principle activities on the work program for the first year of ATSIEB's operations?
7. Will the name of ATSIEB be open to change during the first year of the organisation's operations and what will be the process for making a change?
8. What is the budget provision for corporate branding, design of logos, market research or consultation relating to corporate branding of ATSIEB?
9. What programs will ATSIEB be responsible for administering, or what new programs are under consideration for development or transfer to the new body? What is the value of programs that may be developed or transferred? Will ATSIEB have any responsibilities in relation to the administration or oversight of the new budget measure titled "Integrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Support Services" (page 79 of Budget Paper 3)?
10. How much has or will be spent on studies of equivalent bodies, including previous elected bodies, interstate elected bodies or overseas elected bodies?
11. When will there be a review or evaluation scheduled on the operations of ATSIEB, after start-up issues are surmounted and once the organisation has some period of experience at a full level of operation? What will be the ambit of the first review?

**Ms Gallagher:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The estimated annual budget to support the work of the ATSIEB is as follows:

<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>
\$295,000	\$298,000	\$300,000	\$308,000

2. The annual budget for ATSIEB above does not include costs of the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.
3. At this stage, it is not expected that ATSIEB will be required to seek legal advice, however as the organisation continues to grow and develop an operational process, it may seek legal advice some time in the future.
4. The elected members of ATSIEB will fill part-time positions and, as such, will not require permanent office accommodation. Discussions have been held with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to allow ATSIEB to meet in one of the rooms in the Assembly building. The first meeting of ATSIEB will consider the accommodation and put forward a number of proposals to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.
5. This will be given consideration.
6. It is expected that the work program for the first year of operation will be developed by the Body at its first few meetings.
7. Yes, the name of the Body will be open to change during the first year of operation. It is expected that members of the Body will discuss a suitable name at the first meeting.
8. Branding is funded within the overall allocation of funds, outlined in the answer to (1) above.
9. The Elected Body will not be responsible for administering any programs.
10. At this stage no amount of funds has been set aside to specifically look at other Indigenous elected bodies, either interstate or overseas. However funds are available for the Body to carry out research projects relevant to the activities of the organisation.
11. A mid-term review will be conducted to gauge the effectiveness of the ATSIEB.

*QTON - Community Affairs*

**Mr Smyth:** To ask the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

In relation to : Output 3.2 Community Affairs

The Indigenous Budget is \$870,350, is that figure about \$25,350 extra? What will that be spent on?

**Ms Gallagher:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The Indigenous Affairs Program cost is a subset of Multicultural, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (MATSI), which, in turn, is a subset of Output 3.2 Community Affairs. The Department provides and reports on the budget at the level of MATSI internally and the Indigenous Affairs Program is managed within that larger budget. An attempt to calculate percentage changes from one year to the next is complicated by the allocation of corporate costs, grants and purchased service payments, depreciation, savings and a range of technical adjustments. The difference between the 2007-08 budget figure and the 2008-09 budget figure of \$25,350 is the combination of these figures.

*QTON - Billabong Aboriginal Corp – lease*

**Mr Smyth:** To ask the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

In relation to :

1. Why can't the Billabong Aboriginal Corporation be given a long lease and can you explain why it's a licence rather than a lease?
2. If Billabong Aboriginal Corporation has to be given a licence rather than a lease why cant it be longer than two years?

**Ms Gallagher:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The Billabong Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) is located on Block 1420 Belconnen. The land is controlled by the Commissioner for Social Housing. As Block 1420 is unleased Territory land, a licence can only be granted over the land as the use is not consistent with the land use zoning.
2. The zoning for Block 1420 is NUZ3 – Hills, Ridges and Buffer Zone which allows for a 'temporary use'. A 'temporary use' allows for a licence to be issued for up to a maximum term of 3 years but which may be renewed. Housing and Community Services, acting for the Commissioner for Social Housing, is in discussions with BAC about the term of the licence.

*QTON - Billabong Aboriginal Corp - Water Turnball report*

**Mr Seselja:** To ask the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

In relation to : Billabong Aboriginal Corporation

Ms Sheehan, have you seen the Walter Turnball Report? If so when did you receive it?

**Ms Gallagher:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Yes. The Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services received the Walter Turnball Report in August 2007.