

SELECT COMMITTEES ON ESTIMATES 2009-2010

Question on Notice

Minister for Indigenous Affairs

Table of Contents

<u>QoN</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Page</u>
	Table of Contents.....	1
274	Indigenous Affairs Foskey.....	2
	Community groups fund.....	2
589	Indigenous Affairs Le Couteur/Bresnan.....	4
	QTON – Gugan Gulwan.....	4

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.

QTON – Gugan Gulwan

Ms Le Couteur and Ms Bresnan: To ask the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

In relation to : Gugan Gulwan

1. Why was project funding, under the Community Inclusion Fund, not provided on an ongoing basis?
2. Clarify discussions currently taking place with regards to ongoing funding for the literacy and numeracy program at Gugan Gulwan.

Minister Stanhope : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The Gugan Gulwan Education Support project was funded in 2004 for three years from the Community Inclusion Fund. The project was extended to the end of 2008 and again to the end of June 2009.

Funding under the Community Inclusion Fund was for piloting new activities for social inclusion. It was not intended to be ongoing. Successful projects were requested to work with their Government partners, in this case the Department of Education and Training, to identify alternate sources of ongoing funding.

2. Gugan Gulwan is currently exploring alternative funding opportunities with the Department of Education and Training, in consultation with the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.