



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

CSD-No 09 – 19-06-2014



Asked by Ms Yvette Berry on 19 June 2014: Shane Rattenbury took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 19 June 2014 [PAGE #567-568]]

In relation to: Indigenous Liaison Officers and affects from the Federal Government cuts.

How many Indigenous Liaison Officers are there and will these numbers be affected by the Federal Budget?

MINISTER RATTENBURY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The ACT Public Service has a number of positions that work directly with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members in the ACT. Many of these positions are not specifically titled as Liaison Officers but fulfil a liaison role as part of their duties.

Currently the Education and Training Directorate have 11 school based staff called Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Officers working across 14 schools. In addition there are two, central office based, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Support Officers who provide culturally appropriate connections between the student, their families and schools. There is also one Central Office based Student Engagement Officer who works specifically with vulnerable and disengaged students from preschool to college to support them back into school to engage with learning and their peer groups. The Federal Budget will not impact on any of these positions.

ACT Corrective Services currently has two identified liaison officers; Indigenous Liaison Officer within the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), Offender Services and Corrections Programs and the other within their Community Corrections functions as the Aboriginal Client Support Officer. These positions are not affected by the Federal Budget as both are funded by the ACT Government.

The new ACT Policing Crime Reduction and Intelligence Services Delivery Model, endorsed early in 2014, empowers all Crime Reduction members to undertake duties that relate to all aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander liaison. An AFP member who identifies as Aboriginal, and works with the Crime Reduction Victims Team, is working towards serving ACT Policing as a key facilitator and link into the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in support of those Crime Reduction members.

The Health Directorate employs six Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officers. Four positions at Canberra Hospital and Health Services, one funded position at Drug and Alcohol Services and one funded position at Mental Health. The changes to Federal Budget will not impact on these positions.

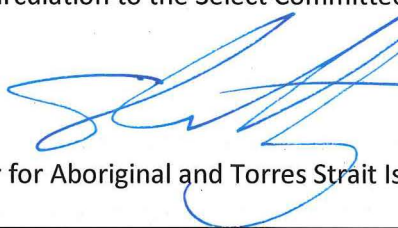
Whilst the Economic Development Directorate does not have an identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officer, Sport and Recreation Services (SRS) has an Inclusive Participation Project Officer who fulfils these duties as part of their broader role. Relative to this role, SRS will receive funding from the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet during 2014-15 (\$55,604), however at this stage there is no commitment for federal funding to be provided beyond 2014-15.

Territory and Municipal Services has one Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officer at present, in Parks and City Services. This position is not affected by the Federal Budget.

The Community Services Directorate has one Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Engagement Officer at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre and two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support workers in the Indigenous Out of Home Care Unit and the Integrated Service Delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These positions are not affected by the Federal Budget.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature:



Date:

1/7/14

By the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA