



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 2

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2008-2009

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Aboriginal Affairs

Monday 13 October 2008

Answers to be lodged by: Thursday 6 November 2008

Budget Estimates Secretariat
Telephone 9230 3528
Fax 9230 2981
budget.estimated@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Questions relating to the portfolio of Aboriginal Affairs

13 OCTOBER 2008, 4.45 pm – 6.00 pm

Questions from Mr Cohen

1. Will the Minister undertake to adopt for his own portfolio, and to coordinate for all relevant portfolios, a transparent, publicly accessible reporting regime for the funding and implementation of the Actions in the *NSW Interagency Plan To Tackle Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities: 2006 – 2011*, including a publicly available annual report covering at least:
 - (a) the amounts and sources of all resources for each of the Plan's Actions;
 - (b) the results to be achieved through these resources;
 - (c) whether the results have been achieved; and
 - (d) if the results have not been achieved:
 - (i) the reasons for the failure to achieve them; and
 - (ii) the action to be taken to ensure they will be achieved in future.
2. Can the Minister confirm that the present Overarching Agreement on Aboriginal Affairs between New South Wales and the Commonwealth Government (2005-2010) (also known as the Bilateral Agreement) was the one announced in April 2006 by the Iemma and Howard Governments?
3. Can the Minister confirm it contained a commitment that it be “jointly reviewed after three years,” and that it is due to be reviewed in April next year?
4. Given the political events since this agreement was struck, particularly the departure of the Howard Government and Premier Iemma, and the attitude of the new Commonwealth Labor Government, do you agree there is an urgent need for a new overarching agreement to be negotiated now which recognises more equitable funding for Aboriginal Affairs in NSW?
 - (a) If so, what steps, if any, have been taken to begin that process?
5. Does the Minister agree that Aboriginal peak representative bodies should be partners to any new overarching agreement between NSW and the Commonwealth, given the crucial importance of ensuring their active participation in any programmes to increase the health and well being of Aboriginal people in NSW?
6. Noting that ministerial responsibility for the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme (ATFRS) is not part of the Minister’s portfolio, can the Minister to the best of his knowledge and inline with his Department’s involvement, indicate;
 - a. The total value of assessments made to direct and descendant claimants under the scheme as of 31 July 2008?
 - b. How many descendant claims and direct claims are on the register?

- c. Does the Department have a budget to fund awareness raising and communication actions?
 - i. If yes, what is the expenditure and where does the funding come from?

Questions from Mr Tsang

7. What is the NSW Government doing to address Aboriginal employment within the private sector?
8. The Government funded a Water and Sewerage Maintenance and Monitoring Program in over 60 discrete Aboriginal communities at the beginning of 2008. What has happened in these communities to date?

Questions from Ms Robertson

9. Can the Minister provide an update on progress from the Aboriginal Communities Development Program?
10. What is the Government doing to reduce disadvantage and improve the well-being of Aboriginal people?

Questions from Mr Veitch

11. What role is the NSW Government's languages policy playing in building better educational outcomes in Aboriginal communities?
12. A key theme of Two Ways Together, the NSW Aboriginal Affairs Plan 2003-2012, is that Aboriginal people are best placed to speak to their views and aspirations, that they themselves know best the needs of their communities.
13. What is the NSW Government doing to give Aboriginal people a voice in planning for better services in the communities?