

## ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

### Question Taken on Notice

**Question Number:** 1.7

**Output Number:** Opening Statement

**Date:** 7/12/2020

**From:** Mr Yingiya Mark Guyula

**To:** Hon Michael Gunner

**Portfolio:** Treasurer

**Agency:** Treasury & Finance

**Subject:** Transparency and accountability in expenditure of federal funding for Aboriginal disadvantage

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#### QUESTION

The Langoulant report outlined a chronic lack of transparency and accountability in department spending. For years we have seen significant amounts of federal funding, earmarked for remote areas and Indigenous disadvantage, used to pay the salary of department staff in Darwin.

What is this government doing to increase transparency and accountability into how federal funding for Aboriginal disadvantage is spent?

#### ANSWER

The suggestion that Commonwealth funding dedicated to remote and Indigenous disadvantage is spent in other areas is completely false.

Commonwealth Government funding to address Aboriginal disadvantage is provided to the Northern Territory under funding agreements (for example, the National Partnership on Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment).

These funding agreements are subject to accountability measures, including milestones and benchmarks which the Northern Territory needs to meet in order to receive the funding.

Signed funding agreements between the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory are publicly available on the Council on Federal Financial Relations website.

Also, performance reports are provided by the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth in order to demonstrate that milestones and outcomes have been achieved, and in order for the Northern Territory to receive the funding.

<https://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/default.aspx>