

PART TWO

2014 Federal Budget Impacts on Indigenous Affairs

The following compilation is based on the official announcements and initial reactions to the first budget by the Abbott government. We had hoped that the election of a Prime Minister who has claimed to be concerned about the failure to progress Indigenous wellbeing would have led to some positive budget options.

The budget is the annual statement by a government of its priorities and intentions. It should therefore reflect both the specifics of its spending and cuts, as well as stating how these decisions were made. New governments in particular should offer clear indicators of what their intentions are and how they intend to achieve them. In the Indigenous portfolio, the government's own advisers have shown the importance of starting with some statement about what communities want, what we know works and therefore what criteria have been used to assess whether the proposed changes have incorporated evidence and appropriate decision making.

Eva Cox August 2014