

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS — BALGO COMMUNITY FEUD

3170. Ms J. Farrer to the Minister representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the feuding in Balgo Community which has been ongoing for more than a month now?
- (2) What is the Department for Aboriginal Affairs doing to intervene and resolve the issues in the Community?
- (3) What funding has the Department provided for Governance support and training in Balgo Community?
- (4) What community based programs does the Department fund and which service in Balgo?

**Dr K.D. Hames replied:**

- (1) Yes
- (2) The Department of Aboriginal Affairs arranged an out of session meeting of the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee on 3 October and as a result of this meeting, dispatched their Chief Operating Officer to the community at Balgo Hills to —  
Complete a situational analysis;  
Develop, and if possible, implement a mitigation strategy;  
Work across agencies at the local, regional and state levels; and  
Report back to the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee.  
These actions are currently progressing. I have been advised as a result of the intervention, no confrontations have occurred as at 5 November 2014. I have also been advised that the Community Health Clinic and Community Store that were closed or operating on restricted hours due to the feuding are now operating at normal business hours.  
In addition, the Chief Operating Officer is developing a model framework for future use in crisis deployments and is identifying any shortfalls in local and regional governance processes that may have impacted on a more timely or proactive response to the Balgo issues.
- (3) Nil
- (4) Nil