

Question on Notice

No. 924

Asked on 31 August 2004

MS NOLAN asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy (Ms Clark)—

QUESTION:

As I'm aware that the administrative responsibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Councils formerly with the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Policy now rests with the Department of the Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women, what has been done at a staffing level within her department to ensure a smooth transition for those people within the councils who deal with the State Government?

ANSWER:

Under the Machinery of Government changes the administrative responsibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Councils was transferred to the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation on 1 July 2004.

Comprehensive consultation on the Machinery of Government changes, Community Governance Improvement Strategy and new legislation for Aboriginal Councils was collaboratively undertaken by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Department of Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women with all Councils between May and July 2004.

The departmental staff working with councils were also transferred which has resulted in minimal disruption of the relationships that councils have with the state government.

However, any further enquires about the councils should be directed to the Honourable Desley Boyle MP, Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women.