

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 2197**  
**Asked on 29 November 2016**

Mr Cripps asked the Premier and Minister for the Arts (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

Will the Premier advise the total cost of fees and expenses paid to elders or representatives of traditional owners for ‘welcomes to country’, or acknowledgements of native title holders, for 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, for all Queensland government departments and ministerial offices, reported separately?

ANSWER:

My Government is committed to acknowledging and demonstrating respect for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First peoples of Australia and recognising their ongoing ties with land, winds, water and sea.

As part of this commitment, the Queensland Government has a policy that requires a Welcome to Country to be conducted by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners at government organised, funded and co-funded events and key meetings.

Such a policy has been in place within government since 2009, and the current policy is the same as that which applied when the former Government, of which the Member for Hinchinbrook was a Minister, was in office.

The policy, titled *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocol – Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners*, is publically available on the publications page of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet’s website at [www.premiers.qld.gov.au](http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au). The policy reflects the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships policy on this matter.

The information requested by the Member in Questions on Notice 2197, 2254 and 2332 is extensive, as it relates to five financial years and covers approximately 350 government departments, entities and courts. I also note that the information is not centrally recorded within government and requires manual checking to ensure completeness. This has diverted resources to identify the information requested by the member.

I will list the information requested by the Member for the departments and entities within my portfolio across the years concerned. This is a reasonable level of disclosure, which provides the Member with comprehensive information in relation to my portfolio.

I am advised that information for my portfolio as requested in Question on Notice No. 2197 is as follows:-

Name of entity	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Department of the Premier and Cabinet (including Arts Queensland)	\$7070	\$3425	\$5130	\$4911	\$5731

In relation to ministerial offices, I am advised that no expenditure on Welcome to Country ceremonies has been met from within ministerial office budgets during the years 2011-12 to 2015-16.