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JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

\$158,000 PER JOB: LABOR’S REMOTE EMPLOYMENT BLOWOUT

Senate Estimates today revealed Labor’s remote jobs scheme is costing taxpayers approximately \$158,000 each for award or minimum wage jobs.

The National Indigenous Australians Agency confirmed the Government has now committed more than \$950 million toward its “real jobs” program in remote communities, with a target of creating 6,000 positions by 2030.

During questioning from Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, NIAA officials confirmed the jobs were generally "entry level award rate" roles, with some positions casual or part-time. Senator Nampijinpa Price questioned how it cost almost a billion dollars to establish 6,000 low-level jobs.

“Can that be broken down because I am looking at \$950 million divided by 6000 — that’s \$158,000 per job,” Senator Nampijinpa Price said during Estimates.

Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians Julian Leeser said Australians were entitled to ask where the money was going.

“At a time Australians are under immense financial pressure, and where government spending is contributing to inflation, Australians are entitled to ask where the money is going.”

"Why does it cost almost \$160,000 to create a \$50,000-a-year job? How many of these jobs are temporary, casual or limited time roles? Surely there are better ways to drive these outcomes" Leeser said.

Senator Nampijinpa Price said practical outcomes must remain the focus.

"Remote communities deserve real jobs and real opportunities, but Australians also deserve transparency and accountability for how taxpayer money is being spent," Senator Nampijinpa Price said.

"Remote communities deserve real jobs. Taxpayers deserve real accountability."

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