

**FOI/2223/014 Scope:**

*“1) A list of Aboriginal Groups whose royalties make up the Aboriginal Benefit Account and what are their values?*

*2) How many successful Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applications have applied for funding from the ABA and what are their values.*

*3) The number of successful non-Indigenous applicants who applied for funding from the ABA and what their values are.*

*The last five years are sufficient.”*

**Response:**

1) There are no Aboriginal Groups whose royalties make up the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA).

Mining Royalties derived from mining activity on Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory are paid to the Northern Territory Government (NTG). The NTG notifies the Commonwealth and a Mining Royalty Equivalent (MRE) is paid into the ABA.

Under s64(3) of The *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, thirty percent of the MRE is paid to the relevant Land Council for distribution to a Royalty Association. The Royalty Association will hold a distribution meeting where Traditional Owners decide how mining royalties are distributed.

2) Over the five year period 2018 to 2022, 337 successful grant applications from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, or Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander owned or controlled organisations, were funded under s64(4) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* for a total value of \$159,297,819 excluding GST.

3) Over the five year period 2018 to 2022, four successful grant applications from non-Indigenous people, or non-Indigenous owned or controlled organisations, were funded under s64(4) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* for a total value of \$804,298 excluding GST.