

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 2

Question No. 044

Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2014:

Senator SINGH: What is the review board's overall budget?

Ms O'Brien: I would need to refer to that question to the department as I do not have any oversight of the budget.

Mr Fredericks: I do not have that information; I would need to take it on notice.

Senator SINGH: No-one here knows what the budget is of the Classification Review Board?

CHAIR: I think they are saying no. Perhaps they can take that on notice.

Mr Fredericks: I think we will have to take that on notice.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* establishes the Classification Board and Classification Review Board as independent statutory authorities but without any financial powers or responsibilities. They are not considered agencies under the *Financial Management and Administration Act 1997* and as such they do not receive a separate appropriation.

The budget for the Classification Board, the Classification Review Board and the Classification Branch forms part of the annual departmental expenses budget for Program 1.1 – Civil Justice and Legal Services within the Attorney- General's Department.

The Classification Branch provides secretarial and administrative support and determines an annual budget for the Classification Review Board from within its annual line budget allocation. The budget is based on the estimated number of reviews, member remuneration and supplier costs. The budget for 2013-14 is \$0.149M. This figure excludes support and administrative overheads provided by the Classification Branch.