

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

Group 3

Question No. 84

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

- 1) Will a new OPC Statement of Intent be issued? When?
- 2) Have any new drafting instructions been issued by the First Parliamentary Counsel since the new government was formed?

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

- 1) If a Statement of Expectation is issued, OPC will respond with a Statement of Intent.
- 2) One new Drafting Direction has been issued, and 10 have been reissued, since the new government was formed. One has been reissued twice. The tables below set out the details:

Issued

| Drafting Directions Series | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Number | Title | Release number | Release date |
| 1.3A | Simplified outlines | 1.0 | 23 September 2013 |

Reissued

| Drafting Directions Series | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Number | Title | Release number | Release date |
| 1.2 | Portfolio for cover page of Bill | 4.6 | 19 September 2013 |
| 1.3A | Simplified outlines | 1.1 | 4 November 2013 |
| 1.4 | Amending Forms Manual | 2.0 | 12 November 2013 |
| 1.5 | Definitions | 3.1 | 5 November 2013 |
| | | 3.2 | 25 February 2014 |
| 2.1 | English usage, gender-specific and gender-neutral language, grammar, punctuation and spelling | 4.2 | 19 December 2013 |
| 2.2 | Use of various expressions in draft legislation | 5.3 | 21 November 2013 |
| 3.8 | Subordinate legislation | 4.0 | 6 March 2014 |
| 3.11 | Implementing Commonwealth agreements (including | 3.1 | 21 November |

Drafting Directions Series

| Number | Title | Release number | Release date |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | treaties and conventions etc.) | | 2013 |
| 4.2 | Referral of drafts to agencies | 8.2 | 15 October 2013 |
| 4.6 | Legislation Approval Process | 6.4 | 26 September 2013 |

The number of the release is determined as follows:

- (a) The first release of a document is “1.0”.
- (b) If minor changes are made to a document then, for the next release, the number preceding the decimal point remains the same and the number following the decimal point is the next consecutive number.
- (c) If substantial changes are made to a document then, for the next release, the number preceding the decimal point is the next consecutive number, and the number following the decimal point is “0”. So if the previous release was “1.1”, the next release is “2.0”.

Copies of Drafting Directions are available on the Office of Parliamentary Counsel’s website (see http://www.opc.gov.au/about/draft_directions.htm).