

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

Group: 2

Program: 1.3

Question No. AE15/082

Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 27 March 2015:

Mr Manning: That \$6.5 million is, again, split between what has happened so far and what was scheduled to happen over the next two financial years. It is important to clarify that no legal aid commission has received a funding cut and they were never going to. There is an additional fund called the Expensive Commonwealth Criminal Cases Fund and the amount that was available in that fund was reduced. That was always the proposal. So \$3.5 million was taken from that fund in 2013-14 and \$1 million was taken from that fund in 2014-15, although you may be aware that in February the government did announce the availability of an additional \$5.2 million for the remainder of this financial year for that fund.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: So far to date, \$4.5 million was taken out of the Expensive Commonwealth Criminal Cases Fund, but then \$5.2 million was put in as of when?

Mr Manning: It was the end of February. I would have to check the date. I think it was around 20 February.

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

On 20 February 2015, \$5.2 million was reallocated to the Expensive Commonwealth Criminal Cases Fund to meet anticipated claims in 2014-15.