

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

**Group: 2**

**Program: Other Agency**

**Question No. AE15/100**

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

Senator MOORE: But you can respond to anything, Minister, but I was particularly asking about the children's one. I just want to check on the costings. Ms Mitchell, it struck me as odd that you had to, at the commission's expense, buy information from other government agencies. Is that standard practice?

Ms Mitchell: It depends. Government agencies charge other agencies for various pieces of work if it is outside their standard work. Obviously, I would like to have this data and I think it is in the public interest to have this data available regularly for free for everybody to use and for use for research and other purposes. It is a frustration for researchers as well. I do think it would be desirable for governments to review the charging practices in critical policy areas.

Senator MOORE: Can we find out how much it cost?

Ms Mitchell: I will take that on notice. Some agencies charge more than others.

Senator MOORE: Exactly, but this is actually an expense for the commission. Congratulations on making the decision to do the work, but it was not at anyone's request as such. It would be useful to know what cost that was, because it was your basic dataset.

Ms Mitchell: I am very happy to provide that for you.

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

The cost for data prepared for the National Children's Commissioner's Statutory Report in 2014 was as follows:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics: \$1,125
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: \$11,736
- National Coronial Information System: \$660
- Total: \$13,521

Kids Helpline also provided data to the Commission at no cost.