

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

**Program: 1.1 AGD Operating Expenses - Civil Justice and Corporate**

**Question No. AE17/040**

**Senator Wong asked the following question at the hearing on 28 February 2017:**

Senator WONG: Senator Brandis, can I take you back to your statement in the Senate of Monday, 28 November. When did you start preparing that statement?

Senator Brandis: I do not remember. Obviously sometime before it was given. It was a prepared statement. Let me take that on notice.

**REPEATED QUESTION:**

Senator WONG: We can have that discussion. I am trying to ask questions. So you said you will take on notice when you started preparing that statement.

Senator Brandis: Yes.

**REPEATED QUESTION:**

Senator WONG: Did you first undertake any searches in your office for diary entries in order to help prepare the statement?

Senator Brandis: Well, I do recall looking at some documents that were in my office, though which particular documents I would not be in a position to tell you. But the point I was going to make to you before is that, because the statement came on on Monday morning, and it certainly had not been prepared the previous week, for example, I did not have access to departmental files. So the statement could have been a lot fuller and a lot longer, but I was satisfied that the statement that I had prepared—and I remain satisfied that the statement I prepared—was of the appropriate substance and length to meet the occasion.

Senator WONG: Did you check your diary in the course of preparing the statement to ensure the dates were correct?

Senator Brandis: Well, look, I am going to take that on notice and reflect on it. I think the answer is yes, because we did establish the date of my meeting with Mr Porter, and that could only have been done by reference to the diary, and we did establish the date of my teleconference with Mr Mischin and Dr Nahan. Now, I independently remembered that that was the day after my meeting with Mr Porter, but in any event we established that by reference to the diary too. So at least in relation to what I have always said, and continue to say, it was the pivotal meeting—the meeting from which I date my

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

The Attorney's statement was prepared over the preceding weekend (that is, 26-27 November). In preparing the statement, the Attorney reviewed his diary.