

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

Group: 1

Program: General

Question: BE14/025

Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:

Senator SINGH: How long were the bookshelves again? How many shelves?

Senator Brandis: I do not know. I could not tell you that. I can take that on notice for you. I wonder if you would allow me to make a point, however, that has been rather missed in the public discussion of this great cause celebre. When I asked that those bookshelves be installed, I did so because there have always been bookshelves in the Attorney-General's office in this parliament. But, since this building has served as Parliament House, there has been no Attorney-General on the Senate side of the building. The first senator to be the Attorney-General since the building was opened is me. So all I was asking be done was the installation of an amenity that has been availed of, uncontroversially, by every Attorney-General, Labor and Liberal, since the building has been in operation. I also say—and this has also not been adverted to in the public discussion—that when I asked for the shelves to be installed, I asked that they be installed at the lowest possible cost consistent with the standards required by the people who run the building.

Senator SINGH: Can you take on notice how long they are and how many shelves there are?

Senator Brandis: Sure.

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

The total bookcase is 5.2m long and has seven rows of shelves.