

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

Group: 2

Program: 1.1

Question: BE14/031

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

Senator SINGH: Does the department have some kind of breakdown as to what each legal aid commission used that money for? Obviously some have used it for pilot programs; others, as you say, like Tasmania, have used it to top up their existing services.

Mr Fredericks: Senator, in fairness to you, that answer deserves a proper detailed response, the nature of which we can provide to you on notice.

Ms Quinn: I will add to that. Because we were only halfway through the funding cycle when we made the announcement about cutting the second year of funding, we are working very closely with each legal aid commission to recast what they think they will be able to achieve with that money over the remaining financial year. The position they may have presented six months ago may be different to what we are working with them on now. If we could take that on notice, we could give you a much more current picture of what each legal aid commission will be delivering.

Senator SINGH: Okay—let's take that on notice. I would like to move to cuts to Indigenous justice programs.

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

Most commissions had underspends to carry activities through into the 2014/15 financial year.

Legal Aid NSW:

- Services in family law
- Services in Commonwealth civil law matters

Victoria Legal Aid

- Services in family law and child protection issues
- Regional services

Legal Aid Queensland

- Services in family law and child protection
- Services in Commonwealth civil law

Legal Aid Western Australia

- Services in family law
- Services in Commonwealth civil law

Legal Aid ACT

- Dispute resolution services
- Services in family law and child protection

Legal Services Commission of South Australia

- Family dispute resolution services
- Services in Commonwealth civil law

Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission

- Services in Commonwealth civil law

Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania

- Services in family law