

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

Group: 2

Program: 1.3

Question: BE14/094

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

1. Which program funding is affected by the decision in *Williams v Commonwealth of Australia* [2014] HCA 23 (19 June 2014)?
2. Is the Attorney General looking at alternative measures to fund the School Chaplains program given the High Court decision in *Williams v Commonwealth of Australia* [2014] HCA 23 (19 June 2014)?
3. Is the Attorney General drafting legislation which would amend legislation to allow the direct funding of the School Chaplains Program by the Federal Government?

The answers to the honourable senator's questions are as follows:

1. The High Court found that payments made by the Commonwealth to the Scripture Union of Queensland under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program were not validly made. The decision means the Commonwealth Government cannot continue the current Program. The Court did not decide any other program was invalid.
2. Funding arrangements for a school chaplains program are a matter for the Minister for Education.
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