

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

**Group: 2**

**Program: 1.9**

**Question No. BE15/012**

**Senator Bilyk asked the following question at the hearing on 27 and 28 May 2015:**

Senator BILYK: I have asked questions about this before but I have not been particularly happy with some of the answers I have received. I want to know if you can explain why the contract was let out of Minter Ellison's Brisbane office, if the TURC is based in Sydney and Minter Ellison headquarters are also in Sydney, why was the contract let out of the Brisbane office?

Mr Minogue: I am not aware that it was. The lawyers leading the support for the commission in Minter Ellison, as far as I am aware, are Sydney based lawyers. They may draw people in from other offices, depending on the expertise required but, certainly, the lead partner is based in Sydney.

Senator Brandis: I think that the Brisbane or Melbourne, for that matter, partners of Minter Ellison might cavil at the suggestion that the headquarters of the firm is in Sydney.

Senator BILYK: Could you just take that on notice, Mr Minogue, and confirm your answer to me as being correct. I am fairly certain it was led out of the Brisbane office.

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

The contract for the engagement of Minter Ellison as solicitors for the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption was made between the Commonwealth of Australia and Minter Ellison, Level 19, Aurora Place, 88 Phillip Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000. The 'supplier details' published on Austender (including the supplier's location) were derived from information provided by the supplier.