

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

**Group: 2**

**Program 1.3**

**Question No. SBE14/165**

**Senator Wright asked the following written question from the 20 November and 11 December 2014 hearings.**

1. When will the Government respond to this report?
2. The report found 'funding for legal assistance services is inadequate to meet the government's own objectives and any efficiencies to be found would not be enough to cover the funding shortfall'. What is the government going to do to address the funding shortfall around legal assistance?
3. The report also recommended a whole-person consideration of legal issues and supported preventive and early intervention activities, which could involve research and education activities. Is the Government re-evaluating its approach to legal aid funding – and how that money can be spent – in light of this expert advice?

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

1. While the findings will be taken into consideration in the review of legal assistance funding arrangements, the government does not propose to formally respond to the report.
2. Funding allocations for legal assistance programmes from 1 July 2015 will be determined as part of the 2015-16 Budget process.
3. Findings of the review of the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services will inform the legal assistance funding arrangements from 1 July 2015.