

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

Program: 1.9

Question No. SBE15/022

Senator Macdonald asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2015.

CHAIR: No, I do. Can I just ask about the Royal Commission into the Home Insulation Program. Is that now finalised?

Senator Brandis: The royal commission is, yes.

CHAIR: Have there been any charges laid as a result of the royal commission?

Mr Minogue: Not that I am specifically aware of, but there were originally some state prosecutions or coronial processes in relation to the deaths, in particular, of the four young men who died. In relation to other workplace health and safety or other regulatory action, we are not necessarily aware of those. I could take it on notice, but even then it might be beyond our capacity to answer. In terms of the Commonwealth government's response to the Commonwealth royal commission, I think the Minister for the Environment is leading that. That has set up a number of elements, one of which was some work being done under the Prime Minister's portfolio in relation to the activities of public servants and frank and fearless advice. Other aspects were the industry program that is administered by the department of industry in relation to pre-existing home insulation businesses.

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

The Royal Commission did not make any specific recommendation that charges be laid as a result of its findings. The Minister for the Environment is co-ordinating the government's response to the Royal Commission's report in consultation with the Prime Minister and other relevant ministers.