

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

Program: 1.4

Question No. SBE15/030

Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2015:

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: I was not going to go here, but since Minister Cash is here I thought I might ask if she could direct me to the 'false and misleading campaign' that she referred to in question time last week, because I have been following this for a while and I have only seen reasonably accurate descriptions of what we just went through in terms of the out years. Has someone that has not come to my attention from the community legal centre been claiming that these are immediate cuts?

Senator Cash: No. As I said, it was not in relation to the CLCs. What I said was in relation to the campaign that had been run by members of the Labor Party and the Greens, from the last budget.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Okay. Could you direct me to who in the Labor Party has been inaccurate in describing this situation.

Senator Cash: A number of allegations have been made in relation to cuts, but in particular, from the Greens, it was Senator Larissa Waters who had alleged that we had cut funding from the national action plan, and we have been very clear that we have not cut any funding at all from the national action plan, and we took her through that at estimates. But there have been a number of allegations. I cannot point to specifics now; I do not have them with me. But certainly there was a campaign alleging that we had cut funding immediately, and we had not.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: I represent the shadow Attorney in the Senate, and I have been asking questions in estimates in this space for some time now. I am not aware of an inaccurate campaign from any of my Labor colleagues, so could I ask you to take on notice which Labor members and/or senators you believe were inaccurately describing these cuts.

Senator Cash: Yes.

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

This is a matter for Minister Cash.