

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

**Output 2.3**

**Question No. 70**

**Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 18 February 2008:**

- a) Please quantify the amount of funds paid prior to date with regard to the Hicks case, with respect to costs incurred by the Attorney-General's Department.
- b) Has the government paid or is the government paying legal costs for Mr Hicks?
- c) Please provide a breakdown of the different aspects of the costs paid for travel, legal, accommodation and other further particulars with respect to those costs related to the Hicks case.

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

- a) The Attorney-General's Department has spent just over \$1 million on legal assistance and other travel costs relating to Mr Hicks' case, up to 29 February 2008.

Significant travel expenses were incurred prior to January 2005, when both Mr Habib and Mr Hicks were being detained at Guantanamo Bay.

- b) The government paid legal costs for Mr Hicks and is currently paying legal costs for Mr Hicks in relation to recently concluded court proceedings.
- c) The breakdown of costs paid with respect to Mr Hicks' case, not inclusive of internal staff costs are as follows, in rounded figures:

- Legal assistance costs paid under the Special Circumstances (Overseas) Scheme:

Legal fees	– professional time	\$211,000
	– travel time	\$31,000
Airfares		\$122,000
Accommodation		\$23,000
Travel expenses		\$22,000
<i>Total</i>		<i>\$409,000</i>

- Other costs paid by the Department:

Flights:		\$592,000
Accommodation, Travel Expenses:		\$11,000
<i>Total</i>		<i>\$603,000</i>