

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

Output 2.3

Question No. 77

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

Please provide advice on whether the Attorney-General's Department had any role in the development of the Office of National Security.

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

The Office of National Security (ONS) is located within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) has made a financial contribution to the establishment of the Office of National Security. In 2007-08, AGD will contribute \$48,000. That will rise to \$68,000 in 2008-09, to \$104,000 in 2009-10 and to \$105,000 in 2010-11.

This contribution is reflected in Table 1.4 of the Attorney-General's Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements for 2007-08.

AGD did not second any staff to support the establishment of the ONS, however, two AGD officers are currently seconded to the ONS. On 18 February 2008, an officer from the Information Coordination Branch of the Protective Security Coordination Centre commenced a secondment. The officer in question will remain in the ONS until 30 June 2008, at which time it is proposed that another officer from the Protective Security Coordination Centre will be seconded to this role. A second AGD officer commenced a secondment to the ONS on 25 February 2008, to work on the Homeland and Border Security Review which is being conducted by Mr Ric Smith AO PSM. The Review is due to report by 30 June 2008.