

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

Sub Program 1.2.5

Question No. 108

Senator Payne asked the following question at the hearing on 8 February 2010:

Regarding a referendum on state and federal relations:

- a. Is the Department working with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on producing a series of national referendum questions to secure a mandate for constitutional change that would better define federal and state government powers, propose the introduction of a republic and formally recognise Indigenous Australians and Local Government?
- b. Does the Government have plans to take these questions to the next COAG meeting?
- c. Will the Government present these questions to the public before the next election?

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

- a. No. The Attorney-General's Department is not working with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on producing a series of national referendum questions.
- b. Items for consideration by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) are a matter for the Prime Minister in consultation with his COAG colleagues.
- c. This is a matter for Government.