

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

Sub Program All

Question No. 122

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

Regarding Freedom of Information for the financial year to date (09/10):

- a. Has the Department received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
- b. How many FOI requests has the Department received?
- c. How many received FOI requests have been granted or denied?
- d. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

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

- a. Yes. On 30 April 2009, the then Cabinet Secretary, Senator the Hon John Faulkner, wrote to departmental secretaries and agency heads asking them to take a lead role in facilitating the Government's policy objective of enhancing a culture of disclosure. The Department has also, from time to time, sought and obtained advice from the Australian Government Solicitor's Office on certain specific requests.
- b. 37.
- c. Five were granted in full and nine were granted in part. Two were denied in full and eight were refused on the ground that the Department did not possess the documents in question. Three were withdrawn by the applicant and five were transferred to other agencies. Five are still being processed.
- d. None.