

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

Program 1.7

Question No. 51

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2012:

Senator HUMPHRIES: ... Lastly, has the Crisis Coordination Centre here in Canberra been used in the flooding of New South Wales and Queensland this summer?

Mr Wilkins: I might get Mr Darby to talk about that.

Mr Darby: Yes, it has been utilised, although we have not ramped up to the level of activity that we had in previous seasons.

Senator HUMPHRIES: What is the maximum number of staff that have operated the centre during this period? Take it on notice if you want to.

Mr Darby: I would need to take that on notice because it varies depending on what the situation is overnight and the number of planning staff we have available.

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

The Crisis Coordination Centre (CCC) has a base staffing level of five staff on a rotating, 24 hour roster.

In addition, during the recent New South Wales and Queensland Floods staff from the CCC Planning section provided specialist assistance in the centre. At any one time up to 3 planning staff undertook these roles. Additional staff were deployed as Liaison Officers (2 in Queensland (4 to 9 Feb) and 1 in New South Wales (16 to 18 Feb 2012)).

These numbers do not reflect other staff that were utilised for very short periods of time for professional advice or logistical support purposes, but captures rostered staff who would have undertaken support to the Flood situation in conjunction with their normal duties.