

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

Output 1.2

Question No. 106

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2008:

Costs of the Clarke Inquiry:

- a) How has the Clarke Inquiry been budgeted?
- b) How many days will the inquiry run in terms of hearing days (including camera hearings)?
- c) How many days will there be between the reservation of Mr Clarke's decision and the publication of his findings?
- d) Will the transcription be subcontracted out to a private transcription provider?

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

- a) The total budget for the Inquiry is \$4.2 million. That amount includes \$350,000 for legal assistance to members of the public who appear before the Inquiry. The cost estimates on which the budget is based were settled having regard to costs of previous royal commissions and the likely smaller scale of the Clarke Inquiry.
- b) The conduct of the Inquiry is a matter for Mr Clarke. The Inquiry is due to report by 30 September 2008. Mr Clarke has indicated that he will conduct private interviews with persons who are able to assist the Inquiry. He has indicated that public forums may also be arranged.
- c) See answer to question (b) above. The timing of the publication of the report will be determined once the report has been finalised.
- d) The Inquiry has advised the Department that it is intended all interviews will be transcribed. The Inquiry intends that a specialist transcription service which is able to provide personnel with appropriate security clearances will be contracted to undertake the interview transcriptions. The firm which transcribed the preliminary hearing was Merrill Legal Solutions.