

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

Output 1.2

Question No. 110

Senator Stott-Despoja asked the following question in writing:

It was reported in *The Australian* on 22 February 2008 that the Attorney-General has instructed the Department to investigate whether contracts with law firms should include a mandatory requirement for pro bono work:

- a) What is the status of that investigation?
- b) Is the OLSC involved in the investigation?
- c) Has input been sought from relevant sector stakeholders? If so, who?
- d) Has the Department undertaken an appraisal of the value of pro bono work that could be derived from such a policy? If so, what is the estimated value?

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

- (a) The Department is exploring the options available to encourage legal services providers to do pro bono work in the context of Australian Government legal services procurement processes.
- (b) Yes, together with the Legal Assistance Branch in the Indigenous Justice and Legal Assistance Division of the Department.
- (c) Yes. Input was sought on this issue from Commonwealth legal services stakeholders in the recent forums conducted by OLSC. A list of the forums and stakeholder attendees is attached.
- (d) No.

Attachment – List of attendees at consultative forums

(a) Canberra – Tuesday, 20 May 2008

- ACT Bar Association
- ACT Law Society
- Austrac
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Australian Communications and Media Authority
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Government Solicitor
- Australian Parliamentary Services
- Air Services Australia
- Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority
- Australian Taxation Office
- Blake Dawson
- Centrelink
- Chamberlains Law Firm
- Child Support Agency
- Clayton Utz
- Crimtrac
- Deacons
- Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- Department of Defence
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Department of Finance and Deregulation
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Health and Ageing
- Department of Immigration and Citizenship
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- DLA Phillips Fox
- IP Australia
- Law Council of Australia
- Malleson Stephen Jaques
- Minter Ellison
- National Archives of Australia
- Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
- Ombudsman

(b) Sydney – Wednesday, 21 May 2008

- Australian Crime Commission
- Australian Government Solicitor
- Allsop Glover Pty Ltd
- Ally Consulting
- Australian Bar Association
- Australian Securities Investment Commission
- Clayton Utz
- Corrs Westgarth Chambers
- Deacons
- DLA Phillips Fox
- Julian Midwinter & Associates
- Migration Review Tribunal – Refugee Review Tribunal
- NSW Bar Association
- Sparke Helmore

(c) Melbourne – Thursday, 22 May 2008

- Australian Communications and Media Authority
- Australian Government Solicitor
- Australian Securities Investment Commission
- Australian Women Lawyers
- Bureau of Meteorology
- Centrelink
- Clayton Utz
- Deacons
- Federal Magistrates Court
- Harris Cost Lawyers
- National Competition Council
- Office of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner
- Public Interest Clearing House
- Sparke Helmore
- Victorian Bar Association

(d) Canberra – Friday, 30 May 2008 – Agency-only

- Air Services Australia
- AusAid
- Austrac
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Australian Communications and Media Authority
- Australian Crime Commission
- Australian Customs Service
- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Fisheries Management Authority
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority
- Australian Parliamentary Services
- Australian Securities Investment Commission

- Australian Security Intelligence Office
- Australian Taxation Office
- Bureau of Meteorology
- Centrelink
- Comcare
- Child Support Agency
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- Department of Defence
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
- Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Department of Finance and Deregulation
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Immigration and Citizenship
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- Department of Health and Ageing
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet
- Family Court of Australia
- Migration Review Tribunal – Refugee Review Tribunal
- National Archives of Australia
- National Capital Authority
- Ombudsman
- Professional Services Review
- The Treasury

(e) Canberra – Thursday, 5 June 2008 – Private sector legal services stakeholders

- Deacons
- Malleson Stephen Jaques
- Moray & Agnew
- NSW Law Society

(f) Canberra – May/June 2008 – Individual private sector legal services stakeholders

- Australian Government Solicitor
- Clayton Utz
- DLA Phillips Fox
- Minter Ellison
- National Pro Bono Resource Centre
- Sparke Helmore