

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

Sub Program 1.1.2

Question No. 127

Senator Ludlam asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2009:

1 July marks the beginning of the next three year cycle. There was apparently another review underway that examined the content and format of contracts between the Attorney General's Department and the Legal Services – altering and improving the reporting framework and putting some new accountability measures in place. What has become of this review – has a report been tendered to the Minister, and what actions have been taken as a result?

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

No formal review of service agreements has taken place. Some consultation with stakeholders has commenced in respect of new three year service agreements as occurs under routine Program arrangements when service agreements approach renewal. The report of the Review of the Commonwealth Community Legal Services Program made recommendations that, if implemented, would require some changes to service agreements and supporting documentation. Further consultation is required, particularly in respect of settling an overarching operational framework for the Program and the proposed introduction of a performance management framework focussed on Program outcomes. The Attorney-General agreed to extend current service agreements until 30 June 2010.