

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

Sub Program 1.1.2

Question No. 133

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

Your Department has not been able to answer questions placed on notice, for example, about comparing Australia's spending on legal aid compared to OECD countries, because the research and data is not available or on demand and unmet need for legal services, or annual figures on unrepresented litigants. Does Australia need something like the UK has, an independent Legal Services Research Centre (LSRC)?

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

There are no plans for the Government to establish a body such as the Legal Services Research Centre. There are already independent organisations within Australia that undertake research in relation to legal aid, including National Legal Aid, the Law Council of Australia and the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales.