

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

Program 1.1

Question No. 101

Senator Birmingham asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2010:

- a. What has been budgeted, and over which financial years, for the announced legal action in the International Court of Justice against Japanese whaling?
- b. What are the expected total costs?
- c. When does the Government expect this case to be heard before the International Court of Justice?

The answers to the honourable senator's questions are as follows:

The Government has ensured that adequate funds will be available for the conduct of the case. The Government is not disclosing publicly details of the funding of the case, as to do so could reveal aspects of our litigation strategy.

On 13 July 2010, the International Court of Justice ordered that Australia's written Memorial be filed by 9 May 2011, and that Japan's written Counter-Memorial be filed by 9 March 2012. The Court is expected to make further Orders about subsequent procedures and timing in the case, including scheduling oral hearings, as the case progresses.