

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

Program 1.7

Question No. 100

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2011:

- a) How much money has been spent building and maintaining the Parliament House Briefing Room to date?
- b) What role did the Parliament House Briefing Room play in the natural disasters last summer?

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

- a) The figures below outline expenditure on building and maintaining the Parliament House Briefing Room to 31 May 2011:

Financial Year 2009/2010 - \$2,537,800

Financial Year 2010/2011 - \$6,072,100

Total Expenditure to date - \$8,609,900

- b) The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) is responsible for the activation and operation of the Parliament House Briefing Room (PHBR). To this end, PM&C has advised that the PHBR was used during the Queensland and Victorian floods and the Japan Tsunami as a venue for meetings and to enable remote attendance by participants.