

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

Program 1.7

Question No. 101

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

Can you describe the role the Disaster Coordination Centre played during the disasters in January?

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

The Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre, managed by Emergency Management Australia, is the Australian Government's central crisis coordination resource and primary source of information and situational awareness in domestic emergencies and crises.

During the disasters of January 2011 the Crisis Coordination Centre coordinated the Australian Government response in support of the affected jurisdictions, including:

- The provision of situational awareness and decision support products to the Prime Minister, other Ministers, Australian Government and jurisdictional agencies and the Australian Government Crisis Committee
- Coordinating the provision of Australian Government physical assistance under the Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN) for Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia
- The provision of financial assistance to State and local governments as well as individuals impacted by these devastating events.
- The coordination of inter-jurisdictional assistance and offers of assistance from a range of countries and international organisations, including facilitating the deployment of personnel and resources.
- The deployment of Australian Government Liaison Officers to State Disaster Coordination Centres in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria to assist with the coordination of Commonwealth assistance ensuring whole-of-government situational awareness.
- Liaison and collaboration, at both strategic and operational levels, with the affected jurisdiction(s) and other jurisdictions in coordinating support to the affected jurisdiction.