

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

Program 1.1

Question No. 72

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

Mr Wilkins, last night you gave me a list of dates of when the Attorney-General's Department had provided legal advice around the plain packaging of tobacco products. You gave me four dates.

- a) Could you tell me, in each case, to whom the advice was provided?
- b) In each case it was the health department?
- c) You have referred to the health department as your client. Is there a cost to providing this advice to the health department?

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

- a) The advice of 16 December 2010 and 17 December 2010 was provided to the Department of Health and Ageing. The advice of 5 January 2001 was provided to the then Department of Health and Aged Care. The advice of 14 December 1995 was provided to the then Department of Human Services and Health.
- b) See answer to part a).
- c) The advice of 16 December 2010 comprised a contribution to an advice provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Office of International Law did not charge for this input. The advice of 17 December 2010 comprised a contribution to an advice provided by the Australian Government Solicitor. The Office of International Law has forwarded its bill to the Australian Government Solicitor for this work. The advice of 5 January 2001 comprised a contribution to an advice provided by the Australian Government Solicitor. The Office of International Law did not charge for this input. The Department of Human Services and Health was charged for the advice of 14 December 1995.