

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION

Question No. 11

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 29 May 2013:

Senator BRANDIS: How many years was that in the making, Professor?

Prof. Croucher: The exact period would be set out at the beginning. On recollection—but I would have to confirm this—it was approximately a two-year inquiry.

Senator BRANDIS: Is it your practice within the commission to attribute a cost in terms of hours spent by individual commissioners, and the cost of consultants and so on, to work out how much particular reports cost and can you tell me specifically how much that report cost?

Prof. Croucher: When we make our planning for our work we assign staff—so a commissioner to lead an inquiry and staff. We allow a certain amount for consultation and production of the reports, and all those specific items are budgeted for.

Senator BRANDIS: What was budgeted for that report?

Prof. Croucher: I cannot tell you, offhand, but we could as a matter of record produce that result.

Senator BRANDIS: You could? Thank you.

Prof. Croucher: That was some years ago. We have done a lot of work since then.

Senator BRANDIS: I understand; you will take that on notice.

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

The budget for the Australian Law Reform Commission's Privacy Inquiry was \$2,027,849.