

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

Portfolio

Question No. 79

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 30 May 2013:

Shredders

Has the department/agencies purchased any shredders this financial year?

If yes, provide:

- a) details of how many shredders were purchased
- b) the cost of each shredder
- c) why each new shredder was needed and
- d) the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.

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

For 2012-13 financial year information up to 31 January 2013, please refer to QoN response 111 from the Additional Estimates round.

For the period 1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013 please see below.

The following agencies have a nil response for this question:

Administrative Appeals Tribunal, Attorney General's Department, Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity, Australian Human Rights Commission, Australian Institute of Criminology, Australian Law Reform Commission, Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, CrimTrac, Family Court of Australia, Federal Circuit Court of Australia, High Court of Australia, Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia, Office of the Australian Information Commissioner and Office of Parliamentary Counsel.

Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) is a government business enterprise operating on a commercial and competitive basis in providing legal and related services to government and its agencies. AGS does not receive any Budget or other appropriations and its employees are engaged outside of the Public Service Act 1999. The question is therefore not applicable to AGS.

The National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) will not be providing a response to this question, as from 1 July 2012 the NNTT is no longer a Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 Agency, and is funded to carry out its functions as a sub-program of the Federal Court of Australia's appropriation. On 12 March 2013 the Courts and Tribunals Legislation Amendment (Administration) Act 2013 came into operation. On that day the Australian Public Service Commissioner signed a determination which transferred all staff employed by the Tribunal to the Federal Court of Australia under s.72 of the Public Service Act, but those staff are designated staff assisting the Tribunal under the Native Title Act.

See below for other responses.

Australian Crime Commission

- a) 1
- b) \$5,300, excluding GST.
- c) This equipment was purchased to meet business requirements for secure destruction of classified material.
- d) Shredders are used for the destruction of classified documents in accordance with the Australian Government Protective Security Policy Framework.

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

- a) 2
- b) \$5,373.00 (ex GST) each.
- c) This equipment was purchased to replace units deemed uneconomical to repair in Regional sites for the secure destruction of classified material
- d) Shredders are used for the destruction of classified documents in accordance with the *Australian Government Protective Security Policy Framework 2005*.

Australian Federal Police

- a) 6
- b) Each shredder had a unique purchase price; however, the average cost of the shredders purchased for the period 1 February 2013 to 31 May 2013 was \$4,395.50 each.
- c) Shredders were purchased to enable the appropriate destruction of classified documents in accordance with Australian Government security standards, as stipulated by the Australian Government Security Construction and Equipment Committee (SCEC) in its Security Equipment Catalogue, and in accordance with the Government's *Protective Security Policy Framework*.
- d) Shredders are used to destroy classified material that does not need retention to meet business, archival or broader relevant needs, and so reduce unnecessary storage requirements and the potential compromise risk associated with retention of unnecessary copies of such material.

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation

- a) 1
- b) \$5,797
- c) Shredders are purchased to meet business requirements.
- d) Shredders are used for the destruction of classified documents in accordance with the *Australian Government Protective Security Manual 2005*.

Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC)

- a) 5
- b) Class A shredder: \$2,163
Class A shredder: \$2,163
Class A shredder: \$1,826
Class A shredder: \$1,826
Class B shredder: \$6,650
Total \$14,628 (ex GST)
- c) Replacement of existing security shredders and purchase of two additional units. The machines that were replaced had reached the end of their useful life. The additional units were purchased to provide security shredding for relevant areas of AUSTRAC's operations that are located on different floors within the Sydney office.
- d) The shredders will be used to destroy confidential documentation that is no longer required. AUSTRAC maintains a server-based digital copy of all relevant records, and in appropriate circumstances the hard copy original does not need to be kept on file.

Federal Court of Australia

- a) 1
- b) \$1,214.29
- c) An old shredder had broken down, and was uneconomical to repair
- d) To dispose securely of documents that contain confidential information