

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Question No. 35**

**Senator Crossin asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:**

Breakdown of appropriation for ATSI legal services:

- (a) What is the breakdown per state?
- (b) Please give an indication of what a target might be in the crime area for each State and Territory?

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

- (a) Budgeted funding for the provision of legal aid to Indigenous Australians is as follows:

<i>State</i>	<i>2005–06</i>	<i>2006–07</i>	<i>2007–08</i>
NSW	12,044,621	12,664,409	13,231,843
Vic	2,717,184	2,809,486	2,887,856
Qld	12,648,960	12,325,456	11,903,484
SA	3,672,883	3,627,418	3,555,524
WA	8,198,400	8,811,842	9,398,198
Tas	1,288,320	1,399,819	1,507,734
NT	6,277,632	6,536,570	6,765,361
Australia	46,848,000	48,175,000	49,250,000

- (b) Contracted service providers are required to meet certain levels of service relating to criminal, civil, and family matters. Levels of service are set for duty matters (primarily criminal in nature), casework and a general category of information, initial legal advice, minor assistance and referral. Service providers are required to meet these levels of service in metropolitan, regional and remote locations (as appropriate to the service area). Performance targets for criminal law matters and duty lawyer assistance in 2005–06 are provided at **Attachment A**.

Details of the reporting requirements are contained in schedules to the service contracts for each provider. An extract is attached from the relevant schedule for each of the states in which the new arrangements have commenced: Victoria, Western Australia, Queensland. These targets have been arrived at, in consultation with each provider, having regard to data collected by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services over previous years. The contracts include new guidelines for the collection of data by service providers which should ensure that the data collected is consistent and more accurate than that collected under the previous arrangements. Some of these targets may be revised, by agreement with the service providers, in light of data collected using the new guidelines.

## Attachment A

Performance targets for criminal law cases in 2005–06

<b>State</b>	<b>Metropolitan (minimum number of clients/cases to be handled)</b>	<b>Regional (minimum number of clients/cases to be handled)</b>	<b>Remote (minimum number of clients/cases to be handled)</b>	<b>Volume of Services (minimum number of clients/cases to be handled)</b>
Queensland North Zone	0	2,000	2,000	4,000
Queensland South Zone	4,000	2,500	500	7,000
Western Australia	9,100	3,816	8,984	21,900
Victoria	1,091	2,026	0	3,117

Performance targets for duty lawyer assistance (majority are criminal matters) in 2005–06

<b>State</b>	<b>Metropolitan (minimum number of clients/cases to be handled)</b>	<b>Regional (minimum number of clients/cases to be handled)</b>	<b>Remote (minimum number of clients/cases to be handled)</b>	<b>Volume of Services (minimum number of clients/cases to be handled)</b>
Queensland North Zone	0	5,000	5,000	10,000
Queensland South Zone	8,000	5,000	1,000	14,000
Western Australia	5,000	1,358	3,942	10,300
Victoria	128	240	0	368