

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

Question No. 77

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

- a. Could you indicate how much funding has been provided under the 'Working Together to Manage Emergencies' initiative?
- b. What initiatives have been funded under this program?
- c. What continuing work are you doing to monitor the implementation of the programs funded under this scheme?
- d. What is the closing date for the next round of funding?

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

- a. \$49 million over four years (FY 04/05 – FY 07/08).
- b. The following initiatives have been funded to date from 2004/05 funding allocations:
 - \$473,000 to the Australian Local Government Association to undertake an environmental scan and stock-take of local government's roles and responsibilities in emergency management and, based on needs identified through that process, create tools to build capacity.
 - \$50,000 to the Australian Council of State Emergency Services to support the conduct of the 2005 State and Territory Emergency Service Disaster Rescue Competition.
 - \$50,000 to the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum to establish an appropriate website to encourage volunteerism.
 - \$118,000 to the Australian Red Cross to undertake further development work on the National Registration and Inquiry System (NRIS), provide training to volunteers on use of the system and to procure communications equipment to support the use of NRIS in the field.
 - \$120,000 to the Remote Indigenous Communities Advisory Committee to develop a national strategy addressing emergency management in remote indigenous communities (as requested by the Augmented Australasian Police Ministers' Council at its inaugural meeting in March 2005).
- c. Detailed funding agreements, prepared on advice from the Australian Government Solicitor, are developed for all projects approved for funding. These agreements identify reporting milestones which are linked to progress payments.
- d. Applications for funding in 2006/07 will be sought from mid-December 2005, with a closing date of 3 March 2006.