

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

Question No. 78

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

Pacific and Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning Systems: Does the funding arrangement have an end date or is each program different?

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

The Pacific and Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning Systems are not funded by the Australian Government.

In the May 2005 Budget, the Australian Government agreed to provide \$68.9 million over four years to establish a national tsunami warning capability. The Australian Tsunami Warning System (ATWS) will contribute to an Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS), and the existing Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC).

The funding for the establishment of the ATWS will finish on 30 June 2008.