

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

Output CSG

Question No. 2

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2006:

With regard to the preparation of Possible Parliament Questions briefs or other such documents intended to brief Ministers on an issue specifically for Question Time, could the department/agency provide:

- (a) The number of such briefs prepared in each of the last three financial years (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06).
- (b) The number of staff who are responsible for coordinating such briefs and the salary level they are engaged at.
- (c) The name of internal unit/team that those staff belong to and a description of its other responsibilities.
- (d) The total budget associated with the unit/team referred to in response to part 3.

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

- (a) The Attorney-General's portfolio prepared possible parliamentary question briefs as follows -
 - 2003-04 - 998
 - 2004-05 - 822
 - 2005-06 - 979

These figures are approximate. As each sittings progresses, some minor variations may occur which are not separately recorded.

- (b) Such briefs are prepared by the relevant Division/Office of the Department and by portfolio agencies, as appropriate. Briefs are coordinated at a central point within the Attorney-General's Department. A part of one officer's duties involves coordination of such briefs; that officer is an Executive Level 1.
- (c) Ministerial and Parliamentary Services. This area provides parliamentary, Cabinet, legislation, Executive Council and ministerial liaison and support for the portfolio.
- (d) The total budget, including salaries, for the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services area for 2006-2007 is \$835 000.