

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

Output 2.1

Question No. 54

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

With reference to page 108 of the Annual Report and the National Firearms Program Implementation Act 1996:

- (a) Could the Department explain what the impediment is to final reconciliation and termination of the National Firearms program?
- (b) How much is projected for expenditure on administration of this program in 2006/07?
- (c) What is the outstanding amount of moneys still under consideration?

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

- (a) The Australian Government is waiting for two States to return outstanding 1996 buyback advances that are yet to be returned due to unresolved compensation claims and court challenges. Other jurisdictions have either acquitted or returned the advances in full.
- (b) There is no projected expenditure on administration of this program in 2006/07. Staff costs incurred by this program are absorbed by the Attorney-General's Department.
- (c) There is \$2,308,562.01 outstanding. One State is expected to return just over \$1.4 million shortly. That state is progressing finalisation of the outstanding claim. The other State is holding nearly \$848,000 pending the finalisation of a number of outstanding litigation matters.