

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

**Sub Program 2.1.1**

**Question No. 48**

**Senator Barnett asked the following questions at the hearing on 19 October 2009:**

With regard to the new privacy principles, what is the Department's view as to the appropriateness of financial institutions accessing people's personal creditworthiness for financial positions? Has the Department expressed a view to the Attorney-General?

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

The Department has no view on the appropriateness of the proposals as the question does not fall within the Department's responsibilities. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is the lead agency on privacy reforms. It notes that the Government's views on why access should be given to five positive credit data sets as part of the credit reporting system are outlined in the Government's response to the Australian Law Reform Commission's recommendations (55-1 to 55-5) on privacy law reforms.

No. The Department has not provided advice to the Attorney-General as to the appropriateness of financial institutions accessing people's personal creditworthiness for financial positions.