

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

Program 1.3

Question No. 66

Senator Wright asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2011:

I refer to the Native Title Respondent Funding Scheme Review. The Frequently Asked Questions document for the Review on the Department of the Attorney-General's website indicates \$0.71m of saving will come from the Native Title Respondent Funding Scheme in the year 2011-12 with ongoing savings of \$2.5m from 2012-13 from the 26 Schemes overall.

1. Can you confirm the above mentioned savings?
2. Will the savings from the Native Title Respondent Funding Scheme and from the consolidation of the 26 schemes remain in the native title system, for example will it be used to bolster the activities of Native Title Representative Bodies and Service Providers?

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

1. From 1 July 2011, savings of \$0.71m were applied to the provision of assistance under the Native Title Respondent Funding Scheme. These savings are indexed annually and ongoing.

From 1 July 2012, additional ongoing savings of \$2.5m per year are applied across the provision of financial assistance across all 26 schemes.
2. No. There is no relationship between changes in the provision of financial assistance under the 26 financial assistance schemes (including the Native Title Respondent Funding Scheme) and the overall operations of the native title system.