

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

**Portfolio**

**Question No. 131**

**Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:**

Reviews

1. For this financial year to date:

- a) How many Reviews are being undertaken?
- b) What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded?
- c) Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
- d) When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- e) Has the Government responded to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not?
- f) What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?
- g) What reviews are planned?
- h) When will each of these reviews be concluded?

2. For 2011-12:

- a) How many Reviews were undertaken?
- b) Where all reviews have, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded?
- c) Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
- d) Did the Government respond to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not?
- e) What was the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?
- f) For any ongoing reviews, when will each of these reviews be concluded?

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

Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) is a government business enterprise operating on a commercial and competitive basis in providing legal and related services to government and its agencies. AGS does not receive any Budget or other appropriations and its employees are engaged outside of the *Public Service Act 1999*. The question is therefore not applicable to AGS.

1. a) – f) The following Agencies have not undertaken any reviews in the period 1 July 2012 to 30 September 2012:

Australian Crime Commission, Australian Federal Police, Australian Institute of Criminology, Australian Law Reform Commission, Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation, Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, CrimTrac, Family Court of Australia, Federal Court of Australia, Federal Magistrates Court, National Native Title Tribunal and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

Other responses are provided in the table below.

a)-f)

<b>Attorney-General's Portfolio – Reviews 1 July 2012 – 30 September 2012</b>						
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Review</b>	<b>End date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Has review been provided to Government?</b>	<b>Has Govt responded within the timeframe? If not, why not?</b>	<b>Cost (exclusive of GST)</b>
National Native Title Tribunal(NNTT) /Federal Court of Australia/ Attorney-General's Department (in consultation with Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs)	The Government has agreed to the recommendations of the Strategic Review of Small and Medium Agencies in the Attorney-General's portfolio that discretionary functions of the NNTT should be reviewed and consideration be given to the introduction of cost recovery for some or all of these services.	Second half of 2013	Commenced	No	Not applicable - End date is second half of 2013.	Nil (within existing resources)
Attorney-General's Department	Review of Legislative Practices and Process in the Attorney-General's Department	April 2012.	Completed	Yes.	Internal review of Departmental process only. AGD formally responded to the recommendations in October 2012.	\$14,660
Attorney-General's Department	Independent review of Family Law Pathways Networks	July 2012	Completed	Yes.	No. No statutory guideline for a response but on track to respond before next round	\$150,000

<b>Attorney-General's Portfolio – Reviews 1 July 2012 – 30 September 2012</b>						
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Review</b>	<b>End date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Has review been provided to Government?</b>	<b>Has Govt responded within the timeframe? If not, why not?</b>	<b>Cost (exclusive of GST)</b>
					of funding agreements for 2013-14.	
Attorney-General's Department	Research on Family Law Services under the Family Support Program	April 2013	On track.	No.	N/A	\$400,000
Attorney-General's Department	Review of the Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	31 August 2011	Completed	Yes.	Yes	\$101,250
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service; Department of Defence; Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Internal Review in to the Maritime Incidents of 21 and 27 June 2012	August 2012	Completed	Yes.	Yes	Absorbed

g) – h) The following Agencies are not planning any Reviews as at 16 October 2012:

Australian Crime Commission, Australian Federal Police, Australian Institute of Criminology, Australian Law Reform Commission, Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation, Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, CrimTrac, Family Court of Australia, Federal Court of Australia, Federal Magistrates Court, National Native Title Tribunal and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

Other responses are provided in the table below.

**Attorney-General's Portfolio – Planned Reviews**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Planned Review</b>	<b>Proposed end date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	Assessment of the agency's portfolio, programme and project management capability (P3M3 Assessment)	30 June 2013	Not yet commenced.
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	APSC Capability Review	28 June 2013	Currently preparing for the Review Team's arrival on 29 January 2013.

2. a)– f) The following Agencies have not undertaken any reviews in the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012:

- Australian Crime Commission, Australian Federal Police, Australian Institute of Criminology, Australian Law Reform Commission, Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation, Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, CrimTrac, Family Court of Australia, Federal Court of Australia, Federal Magistrates Court, National Native Title Tribunal

See table below for other responses.

a)-f)

**Attorney-General's Portfolio – Reviews 1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Review</b>	<b>End date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Has review been provided to Government?</b>	<b>Has Govt responded within the timeframe? If not, why not?</b>	<b>Cost (exclusive of GST)</b>
Attorney-General's Department	Family Violence Prevention Legal Services service delivery review	30 June 2012	Complete	A summary of key findings has been provided.	The Government is not expected to provide a written	\$140,821

**Attorney-General's Portfolio – Reviews 1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Review</b>	<b>End date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Has review been provided to Government?</b>	<b>Has Govt responded within the timeframe? If not, why not?</b>	<b>Cost (exclusive of GST)</b>
					response to the review. However, consideration of possible actions to address the findings of the review is underway. This work is expected to be completed by July 2013.	
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	Agency Capability Initiative (P3M3 Assessment)	31 July 2012	Completed	The report was submitted to the Australian Government Information Management Office on 2 October 2012.	No government response is required. Customs and Border Protection have developed a 2012-2017 Capability Improvement Plan to address the findings of the assessment.	\$42,303

**Attorney-General's Portfolio – Reviews 1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012**

Agency	Review	End date	Status	Has review been provided to Government?	Has Govt responded within the timeframe? If not, why not?	Cost (exclusive of GST)
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	Independent review of the Passenger Movement Charge Program – Administration	July 2012	This review commenced 15 March 2012. It examined administration processes, including a review of current reconciliation processes and the establishment of a compliance program.	No – this review was commissioned by Customs and Border Protection to obtain expert advice in order to improve current administration processes.	Not applicable.	\$98,000
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	Review of charges under the <i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>	31 January 2012	Completed	Yes. A copy of the final report was provided to the Attorney-General in February 2012.	No. The Review is being considered as part of the current Review of the FOI Act and the AIC Act.	\$109,644