

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

**Group 3**

**Program 1.6**

**Question No. 38**

**Senator Rhiannon asked the following question at the hearing on 18 November 2013:**

**Senator RHIANNON:** I understand that the Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans has received money from the proceeds of crime. Has the government decided to cease funding this organisation and, if this is the case, why was that decision taken?

**Mr Anderson:** ACRATH has a funding grant in place currently that expires on 30 June 2014.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Have you decided not to fund them for another year? I understand they have had funding for two years to date.

**Mr Anderson:** No decision has been made. They have existing funding in place until 30 June 2014.

**Senator RHIANNON:** When will the decisions be made for the next round of funding?

**Mr Anderson:** If a decision is to be made, that will be a matter for the government between now and 30 June 2014.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Attorney-General, has a decision been made on whether ACRATH should receive funding again?

**Senator Brandis:** No such decision has been made by me, but I am not familiar with the particular case. Whether a decision has been made within the department, I gather not.

**Mr Anderson:** There has been no occasion for a decision to be made.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Considering the lateness of the hour, could you take on notice when a decision will be made. This organisation understands that they have been defunded.

**Senator Brandis:** It may be that no such decision has been made and that, as I think the officer, Mr Anderson, was pointing out, no occasion has yet arisen for a decision to be made. I do not think we should conflate a refusal with the fact that the occasion to make a decision has not yet arisen.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Does Mr Wilkins have something to share with us?

**Senator Brandis:** No. Mr Wilkins was just pointing out to me that this is something that is a decision for the Minister for Justice rather than me, but I am happy to make the inquiry.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Okay. If you could take that on notice, it would be appreciated.

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

The Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) has received two grants of Commonwealth funding under the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002* for its Anti-Trafficking Education, Direct Service, and Networking project. The grants (\$250,000 for 2008-11 and \$350,000 for 2011-14) were made for specified periods, on a non-recurrent basis. Decisions about any future funding rounds for organisations working to address human trafficking are a matter for the Minister for Justice, the Hon Michael Keenan MP.