

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

**Group 2**

**Program 1.3**

**Question No. 75**

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

1. How many projects have been approved or funded under the NBN Regional Legal Assistance Program?
2. The program relies on high-speed broadband access to deliver services to remote and regional communities. Can a survey be undertaken on how this program will be affected by the Coalition's new broadband policy?
3. How many participating CLCs are located in business parks or other centres likely to receive Fibre-to-the-Premises under the Coalition's broadband policy?
4. Have the extra costs of CLCs having to pay to have fibre connected from the node to the premises been factored in to the program?
5. Has a review of the outcomes of the first round of funding been completed?

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

1. Eleven projects have been funded under the NBN Regional Legal Assistance Program.
2. In line with the government's broadband policy, participating providers are no longer required to secure an NBN connection in order to carry out their activity. This broadening will allow them to implement their activities using the best technology that is available to them.
3. The answer is not known.

However, participating providers are no longer required to secure an NBN fibre connection in order to carry out their activity.

4. No. Participating providers are no longer required to secure an NBN fibre connection in order to carry out their activity.
5. No. An evaluation of the first two funding rounds is scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2014.