

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

Program 1.6

Question Number: 106

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2011:

Does the Department ever review the amount provided to the states and territories under the Disaster Resilience Program, or look in to cost-benefit analyses of where extra funding could be spent?

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

As part of the 2009 Budget the Attorney-General's Department, in consultation with the Departments of Finance and Deregulation and the Prime Minister and Cabinet, was tasked to undertake a review of the effectiveness of programs targeted at developing disaster resilience.

The Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) was evaluated in 2010.

Recognising that the NDRP was at that stage less than 2 years into a 5 year cycle, the review found that:

- the NDRP is consistent with government direction, including the National Disaster Resilience Framework and the National Disaster Resilience Strategy;
- through the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience (NPA), the NDRP has, to a considerable extent, streamlined the administration of various programs to enable more targeted use of the funds available for activities that enhance disaster resilience;
- based on feedback from the jurisdictions, the integration of the previous emergency management grant programs has increased the flexibility of States and Territories to meet the requirements of local communities threatened by disaster, in the context of their risk profiles; and
- the NDRP adheres to the spirit of COAG's *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations (IGA)* and the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience.