

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

**Group 2**

**Program 1.1**

**Question No. 116**

**Senator Xenophon asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2012:**

- a) How many public interest certificates has the Attorney-General issued under section 36 of the Administrative Appeals Act?
- b) How many certificates has the Attorney-General been asked to sign since 2007?
- c) How many requests to sign certificates has the Attorney-General refused? Can the Department provide details of these?

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

- a) The Department has a record of 32 certificates having been issued under section 36 of the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975* (the Act) since 1 January 2007.
- b) The Department has a record of the Attorney-General having been asked to issue 32 certificates under section 36 of the Act since 1 January 2007.
- c) The Department's records indicate that no applications for section 36 certificates have been refused by an Attorney-General since 1 January 2007.