

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

**Group 2**

**Output 1.1**

**Question No. 21**

**Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 23 May 2012:**

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** On present projections, when is the last government department going to be able to come in under the MUL arrangements? We assume it is no earlier than February 2015. Are there any that are running beyond 2015?

**Mr Minogue:** I am not sure that there are. We can take that on notice.

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

The Legal Services Multi-Use List (LSMUL) commenced on 1 June 2012.

Appendix F of the *Legal Services Directions 2005* provides that all Commonwealth agencies subject to the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, with the exception of Commonwealth companies and government business enterprises, are required to use the LSMUL in accordance with the following rules:

1. agencies without existing legal services panel arrangements must obtain their legal services from the LSMUL from its commencement on 1 June 2012 (para 3(2), Appendix F, *Legal Services Directions 2005*), and
2. agencies with existing panel arrangements may to continue to use those arrangements until 1 June 2013 (para 3(1), Appendix F, *Legal Services Directions 2005*).

During the 12 month transitional period, agencies may use both their existing panel arrangements and the LSMUL where their panel arrangements are non-exclusive.

Agencies wishing to use an existing panel arrangement after 1 June 2013 must seek an exemption from the Attorney-General under paragraph 13.1 of the *Legal Services Directions 2005*. As at the time of this response, no exemptions have been granted.