

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

Group 2

Output 1.1

Question No. 23

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

Senator HUMPHRIES: It is about education grants. I have a list of previous grants and the Human Rights Framework—Education Grants applicant program guidelines: 'The education grants provide small grants to a wide range of community organisations'—as I am sure you are aware—'Grants are available for a range of subjects', 'projects should promote a practical understanding of the human rights responsibilities of individuals as members of a tolerant, inclusive society and promote community awareness, understanding and engagement with the rights and freedoms under the UN human rights treaties, to which Australia is a party.' Can you tell me what the cost of this initiative is, please.

...

Perhaps you could give me, by each financial year in which it has operated, the total cost of the initiative. Break it up into the cost of running the grants program and the total value of the grants that have been made, please. You can take it on notice if you cannot give it to me now.

Mr Hall: I will certainly give you the information I have here. There have been two grants rounds so far under the program—a 2010-11 round and a 2011-12 round. A total to date of \$957,309 has been awarded to fund the 30 projects. We can provide you with the details of those projects fairly easily, if that would assist. In terms of the breakdown of financial year by financial year, I might take that on notice.

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

The Government has committed to providing grants to non-government organisations for human rights education projects over the four years from 2010 -11 to 2013-14. The total available funding over the four-year period is \$2.068 million.

The allocation of funding in each of these years is set out below.

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Administered funds	\$250,000	\$509,000	\$518,000	\$791,000

\$250,000 was paid to grant recipients in 2010-11. At 7 June 2012, \$455,535 had been paid in 2011-12, with further funding to be paid before the end of the financial year. \$518,000 will be provided in 2012-13 and \$791,000 in 2013-14.

As Mr Hall stated, \$957,309 has been awarded to 30 grant recipients so far (2010-11 and 2011-12 recipients). A number of these grants are multi-year grants, with some payment due to fall in 2012-13 and 2013-14, once the Department receives evidence of acceptable progress for each multi-year project.

In 2011-12, the cost of administering the grants program was approximately equivalent to the base salary of 0.7 x APS5 and 0.2 x EL2 - \$79,000.