

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

Program SPCG

Question No. 100

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:

Please describe what, if any, Administrative Arrangements Orders occurred in your portfolio between November 2007 and July 2010. Please detail the costs associated with these.

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

The Attorney-General's Department has been the subject of 1 variation to the Administrative Arrangements Orders between November 2007 and July 2010.

On 3 December 2007 changes to the Administrative Arrangements Orders resulted in the Attorney-General's Department becoming responsible for the additional matters of:

- Natural disaster relief and mitigation in the form of financial assistance to the States and Territories
- Administration of the Jervis bay Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, the Coral Sea Islands Territory, the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island
- Constitutional development of the Northern Territory
- Constitutional development of the Australian Capital Territory, and
- Planning and land management in the Australian Capital Territory.

Additionally, under the same Administrative Arrangements Orders, the Attorney-General ceased to be responsible for administration of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*.

In relation to the additional matters the Attorney-General's Department became responsible for, there was an associated transfer of 65 employees from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government to the Attorney-General's Department under s72 of the *Public Service Act 1999*.

In relation to the Attorney-General ceasing to be responsible for the above-mentioned Acts, there was an associated transfer of 12 employees from the Attorney-General's Department to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

In respect of the movement of the Territories functions to the Attorney-General's Department, the Department received corporate overhead funding as part of the transfer for normal administrative costs such as rent and other property costs. The ongoing rent and related property costs incurred in relation to this transfer of function are set out in the following table:

Nature of Cost	Value
Accommodation	\$475,760 per annum indexed by 3.75% annually
Cleaning and Outgoings	\$39,924 per annum

In addition, the following one-off costs associated with the acquisition of the Territories functions were incurred:

Nature of Cost	Value
Fit-out of accommodation	\$200,000
Removals	\$4,500