



## Senator The Hon. Kim Carr Senator for Victoria



Ms Katherine Jones PSM  
Secretary, Attorney-General's Department  
Robert Garran Offices  
3-5 National Circuit  
Barton ACT 2600

14 February 2022

Dear Secretary Jones,

I write on behalf of the Opposition Senators ahead of the Senate Estimates session that is to be held on 15 February 2022.

While we understand you will always attend Senate Estimates with detailed information regarding the operations of the Attorney-General's Department (AGD), I request that you be able to provide the following specific information when you attend Senate Estimates on 15 February 2022:

- The number and levels of staff currently employed by AGD;
- Funding levels for the Australian Human Rights Commission;
- Details regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Respect@Work National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces, including Recommendation 17 and Recommendation 18;
- Details of all costs incurred by AGD in relation the prosecution of Witness K and Bernard Collaery to date (including AGS and external legal services);
- Details of all costs incurred by AGD since the conclusion of the case against Witness K, and hence which relate only to the continued prosecution of Bernard Collaery since that time;
- Details of AGD's knowledge of, and any advice the Department provided the current or former Attorney-General in relation to, the \$100,000 donation made to the LNP by Geoffrey Thomas the day before the Government announced that Justice the Hon

David Thomas had been appointed as President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal;

- Details of the recipients, precise purpose and timing of distribution of funds announced by the Attorney-General on 11 May 2021 in a joint Media Release titled “Budget Delivering for Australian Women” (<https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/budget-delivering-australian-women>) in relation to the following specific announcements:
  - “... \$129.0 million in additional legal assistance funding to women’s legal centres to help women access justice. This funding will be directed to women’s legal centres, to enable these providers to respond to increasing demand for domestic violence assistance”;
  - “More than \$60.8 million will fund the reform of family law case management in the federal family courts to improve outcomes and better meet the needs of families and children.”
- All details of all legal assistance approved under the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017 since 1 January 2020, including in relation to:
  - the defamation claim made against Minister Michael Sukkar on 9 August 2021;
  - the undisclosed claim made against Senator Reynolds on 20 January 2022;
  - the legal assistance provided to Senator Reynolds in relation to an AFP investigation, which was approved in April 2021 by the Minister for Finance;
  - the preparation of a witness statement by Mr Alan Tudge;
  - the legal assistance provided to Minister Paul Fletcher in relation to a claim made on 21 April 2021 regarding an employment matter; and
  - any other legal assistance approved under the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017 since 1 January 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Kim Carr  
Deputy Chair  
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee  
Labor Senator for Victoria