

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2015**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **AGS expenditure**
Question: **6**
Hansard Reference **p 19-20, 23 February 2015**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 April 2015

Senator WONG: You referred to advice from the AGS in your opening statement?

Ms Mills: That is correct.

Senator WONG: Can you tell me how much you spent on that advice and who authorised the expenditure?

Ms Mills: Yes, I can. I will refer that to Ms Croke.

...

Ms Croke: The total cost to date that we have spent with AGS on this is \$83,000.

Senator WONG: Is that \$83,000 to date?

Ms Croke: That is \$83,000 up to last Wednesday.

Senator WONG: Up to last Wednesday, and it is ongoing.

Ms Croke: Until the matter is resolved, yes.

Senator WONG: What was the total envelope that was approved?

Ms Croke: I might have to take that one on notice.

Answer

The Presiding Officers agreed on 28 and 29 May 2014 to the Department engaging legal assistance. The brief indicated that the cost involved was potentially in excess of \$150,000.