

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

**Group 1**

**Question No. 11**

**Senator Macdonald asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2014:**

Ms Glanville: In terms of the department's staffing, the numbers have slightly reduced. We have had a voluntary redundancy round, and there has also been some natural attrition. I am happy to get the exact figure for you in relation to the department's staffing. The figures that would appear in the additional estimates indicate some increase in overall staffing. That relates to the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce and the royal commission's staff, as well.

CHAIR: The royal commission's staff are additional. Is that what you are saying?

Mr Wilkins: It is included as part of our departmental staff, even though it is obviously separate. In those papers it is included as part of the department's staff.

Ms Glanville: That is for two royal commissions: the sexual abuse royal commission and the home insulation program royal commission. And, of course, another royal commission has been announced—

...

CHAIR: The achievements of this royal commission (into child sexual abuse) cannot of course be judged in money terms. It is a very important commission and if something comes out of it that addresses the issue and the problem it will be well worthwhile. Without going to too much trouble, I am wondering about the sort of questions that Senator Ludwig, I think, asked you about another royal commission in relation to costs. If you have it now we will take it. Otherwise I will put it on notice.

Ms Dines: I do have a breakdown of costs, but, as was mentioned before, it is a little difficult to separate. There is almost a legal element involved in all staffing, so I think it would be better if—

CHAIR: There is almost a legal what?

Ms Dines: There is a legal cost element involved in almost every aspect of what we do, so I think it would be better to take that question on notice.

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

The Royal Commission's total anticipated legal costs for 2013-14 are \$11,509,243.

This includes Counsel fees, as well as the engagement of external firms to provide general legal advice and ad-hoc contractual legal advice, and prepare and support case studies.

This also includes internal legal staffing costs for staff involved in the preparation and conduct of public hearings and associated with private sessions.