

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

Group 3

Question No. 94

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

- 1) What is Austrac's overall budget? Has Austrac been asked to find any savings or efficiencies by the new government? If so, how much and by when? Was this via letter?
- 2) How much money is currently spent on Austrac's database for intelligence?

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

- 1) AUSTRAC's budgeted funding from government for 2013-14 is \$64.588 million, comprising:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Operating – Departmental | \$53.142 million |
| Capital – Departmental | \$2.881 million |
| Capital – Equity | \$8.565 million |

For 2013-14, AUSTRAC has not been asked to find any specific individual savings by the new government. AUSTRAC is currently working with government on the compilation of future years' budgets.

- 2) AUSTRAC's intelligence systems comprise multiple applications and interfaces to different areas of stored data. As such, it is not a separate or distinct intelligence database. Further, AUSTRAC does not record its information and communications technology expenditure in this manner.

The total forecast expenditure on AUSTRAC's IT operations for 2013-14 is \$10.521 million. This cost includes the costs of supporting all AUSTRAC IT systems and applications (not just intelligence), the costs for software maintenance and development, the costs for hardware repairs and maintenance, and the costs for telecommunications.