

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

Group 2

Program 1.4

Question No. 121

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

- 1) Why was the decision made to abolish the Inter-Country Adoption Advisory Group and replace with a committee of department heads who are not impartial?
- 2) How much money was saved by disbanding the inter-country adoption advisory group?
- 3) Where have the funds that have been saved been redirected to?

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

- 1) The National Intercountry Adoption Advisory Group (NICAAG) was abolished as part of the rationalisation of a number of non-statutory bodies. This was a whole-of-government decision, taken to simplify and streamline the business of government. The Interdepartmental Committee on Overseas Adoption did not replace NICAAG, but was formed to report directly to the Prime Minister on barriers within, and possible measures to improve, Australia's intercountry adoption system. The Prime Minister announced a number of reforms to intercountry adoption upon receipt of the report.
- 2) The department had allocated up to \$34,400 for NICAAG-related expenditure in 2013-14.
- 3) The funds will be used for normal departmental expenditure.