

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

Corporate

Question No. 16

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

Senator KIM CARR: Has there been any offset in any other royal commission, for instance?

Senator Brandis: No.

Senator KIM CARR: So there has been no that money that was previously allocated for the royal commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse?

Senator Brandis: It has been absorbed by the department itself, I am told. I will ask Ms Glanville to answer that question. As I understand it, no money has been taken away from anywhere else, but there was an underspend that was reallocated.

CHAIR: Would it be better to take that on notice?

Ms Glanville: I think we will if that is okay.

...

Senator KIM CARR: When was the underspend?

Senator Brandis: All these questions, because we want to be sure that we give you a full and accurate answer, will be taken on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: When was the underspend identified and for what period?

Senator Brandis: We will take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: How much was the underspend?

Senator Brandis: We will take that on notice.

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

The funding requirements of the Royal Commission into the Home Insulation Program (RCHIP) have been met through a contribution of equal amounts of \$6.7m from the Attorney-General's Department (the "Department"), the Department of the Environment and the Department of Industry.

Total appropriation of \$19m was provided to the Department for the operations of the RCHIP and \$1m provided to the Department of Finance for witness expenses of current and former ministers.

In relation to the Department:

- \$4 million was redirected from savings achieved in the 2013-14 capital budget of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (RCIRCSA); and
- 2.7 million was redirected from funding provided to the Department and not required in 2013-14 for financial assistance for legal costs and related expenses for witnesses to the RCIRCSA.