

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

Group 3

Program 1.6

Question No. 140

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

- 1) The previous government announced in May 2013 that Australia would join the Open Government Partnership (OGP). Will the current government honour that commitment?
- 2) Is the Attorney-General's Department still the lead agency responsible for the OGP?
 - i. If yes, is the government considering or has the government considered any other agency for the lead agency role?
 - ii. If no, What is the current lead agency? When was a decision made to change the lead agency?
- 3) Was the Attorney-General or his office responsible for this decision? If not, who was?
- 4) How many public service staff are working on the OGP?
- 5) Has the Attorney-General or his department, or if there is a new lead agency, the relevant Minister and his/her Department, consulted with any stakeholders regarding the development of the AP or any other aspect of the OGP? If so, who and when?
- 6) Why was a new agency considered an appropriate lead agency?

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

- 1) The membership of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) by Australia is under consideration by the Government.
- 2) Yes.
 - (i) As at 24 February 2014, the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) was the lead agency for work related to the OGP.
 - (ii) Not necessary to answer because of the answer to 2) (i).
- 3) Not necessary to answer because of the answer to 2) (i).
- 4) In relation to AGD, no staff are solely engaged in work related to the OGP.
- 5) The Attorney-General's Department has not formally consulted with stakeholders.
- 6) Not necessary to answer because of the answer to 2).