

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

Group: 2

Program: Other Agency

Question No. AE15/028

Senator Wright asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2015:

Senator WRIGHT: Under the Tribunals Amalgamation Bill, the minister appoints the registrar of the AAT, who is then responsible for the tribunal's staff. This is different from the current approach under the AAT where the president appoints the registrar. Do you see any implications from that change? Is it possible it could give rise to a situation where there is a clash or conflict of views between the president and the registrar that undermines the effectiveness of the AAT?

Mr Matthies: That may be a matter that is better addressed to the Attorney-General's Department, which has responsibility for the legislation.

Senator WRIGHT: I am interested in the point of view of the tribunal, if you have a particular view. I am happy to hear from the department about that too.

Ms Cuthbertson: I would say that we would need time to consider that. We have not actually formulated a view on that particular issue. It is certainly something which is new and something which we would like to think through. If you would be comfortable with that, we would like to get back to you through a subsequent response.

Senator WRIGHT: I would certainly be happy to allow you to do that.

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

The AAT notes that this change will not proceed as a result of amendments agreed in the Senate.