

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

Group: 2

Program: Other agency

Question No. AE15/092

Senator Macdonald asked the following question at the hearing on 27 March 2015:

CHAIR: I am just wondering if there is any indication of when it might conclude. On notice can you give me, unless you have it with you, indications of the cost of that commission to date.

Mr Reed: The letters patent indicate that the final report is to be provided to the government by 15 December 2017. Currently the overall budget for the royal commission to the end of the royal commission is \$372 million.

CHAIR: That is the estimate; can you tell me how much has actually been spent in cash money to date?

Mr Reed: Actual expenditure to 28 February 2015 is \$137.5 million.

CHAIR: I hear the letters patent run through to the end of 2017, but is there any other indication of whether it will be finished before then?

Mr Reed: At this stage, no. We are working to that date.

CHAIR: Can you give me on notice some detail about the \$137.5 million spent to date. I do not mean fine detail but just broad details about how much was for legal fees and how much was for travel expenses and rent.

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

Actual expenditure by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse from inception (January 2013) to 28 February 2015 totals \$137.5 million. This comprises:

- Employee expenses - \$49.9 million
- Legal fees (provision of legal services by external law firms and Counsel) – \$10.8 million
- Travel expenses – \$4.8 million
- Lease expenditure – \$11.5 million
- Other supplier expenses - \$43.0 million
- Capital expenditure (including fit out and IT) - \$17.5 million