

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

Group: 1

Program: 2.1

Question No. AE15/132

Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 24 February and 27 March 2015 hearings:

1. An answer to a QON stated that the cost of the opera review is being met from departmental resources. What resources have been allocated within the Ministry to service this review? What contribution is being made by the Australia Council?
2. Why were the recent public consultations for the opera review held in January, at very short notice, when the Minister's press release stated they would be held "later in 2014"?
3. What were the main issues raised at the opera review's public consultations?
4. What other consultations with stakeholders have taken place for the opera review? What issues have been raised?
5. The answer to a previous QON stated there will be a discussion paper for the opera review, when is that to be expected?
6. Is the panel's final report still expected by June 2015?

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

1. The National Opera Review Secretariat is staffed by the equivalent of three full-time staff from within the Ministry for the Arts. The Australia Council is providing regular support to the Secretariat.
2. The Public Consultation Sessions were held once the Review Panel had undertaken a fact-based analysis of each opera company under review. This analysis was not completed until late in 2014.
3. The main issues raised at the Public Consultation Sessions were the repertoires of each company, the accessibility and affordability of opera, music and opera education in schools and by the companies, the careers of singers in Australia and the opera ecosystem more broadly.
4. The Review Panel has met with key stakeholders including the opera companies under review, venues that accommodate opera, state funding agencies, orchestras that support the opera companies and other key representatives from the sector. A wide variety of issues have been raised, in the context of the Review's Terms of Reference.
5. Timing for the release of the Discussion Paper has not been finalised
6. The Panel is currently reviewing the schedule.