

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

Program: 1.1

Question No. AE16/032

Senator Lambie asked the following question at the hearing on 9 February 2016:

Senator LAMBIE: Could I just ask a question on that while you are doing costings. Would I be able to be provided a costing of what it would cost to run that plebiscite on the day of the next election? I have been told that would be about one fifth of what it would cost if you did it stand-alone.

Senator Brandis: I will take that on notice.

Senator LAMBIE: Thank you.

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

In a submission to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Reference Committee's inquiry into the '*Matter of a popular vote, in the form of a plebiscite or referendum, on the matter of marriage in Australia*', the Australian Electoral Commission advised that a 'popular vote held in conjunction with a federal election would cost ... \$44 million' (paragraph 2.28). This cost estimate was based on information available at the time of the inquiry and on assumptions that a plebiscite would be conducted on a similar basis to referenda.