

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

Group: 2

Program: 1.5

Question: BE14/030

Senator Macdonald asked the following question at the hearing on 28 May 2014:

Ms Quinn: All of the Indigenous legal services are funded by the Commonwealth—100 per cent Commonwealth funding—through direct funding agreements with our department. We have ultimate oversight of risk management profiles of how an organisation is running, acquittal of the money that is being spent and also performance reporting standards.

CHAIR: But your contract is with the state group or, in the Northern Territory's case, to—

Ms Quinn: Each provider, yes.

CHAIR: But then that provider could have several units—

Mr Manning: Several sites at which they provide services; that is right.

Ms Quinn: The services are of different sizes and different make-up depending on the location and the needs. Also, some services may well receive other funding through other government arms. I am just talking about the Indigenous legal assistance program funding.

CHAIR: Is it easy to get me on notice an indication of how many units there are? In Queensland, for example, which is my home state, is there only one unit that gets the funding or is there a unit in Brisbane, one in Townsville, one in Mount Isa and so on?

Ms Quinn: There is one organisation that is funded to provide services across all of Queensland. They have different sites in different locations. They also do remote and rural outreach. The make-up in different states is quite different, as you would imagine. In the Northern Territory the arrangements for service provision are quite different to, say, in Victoria. That is about the individual service assessing the needs in their region. Mr Fredericks: On notice, we would be able to provide you with a list of the locations in which legal services are provided. My understanding is that they are provided in 82 permanent locations across Australia at the moment. On notice, we could give you a list of all of those 82 locations.

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

Services are currently delivered from 82 permanent locations with outreach services also provided in each State/Territory, refer to below table of permanent locations:

Provider	Regional	Remote	Metropolitan
Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Ltd	16	2	3
	Armidale Bathurst Broken Hill Canberra Dubbo Grafton Griffith Kempsey Lismore Moree Moruya Nowra Tamworth Taree Wagga Wagga Wollongong	Bourke Walgett	Parramatta Newcastle Redfern
Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Co-operative Ltd	7	0	1
	Bairnsdale Ballarat(Field Officer only) Heywood Mildura Morwell Shepparton Swan Hill		Preston
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (QLD) Ltd	14	10	3
	Bundaberg Chinchilla Dalby Goondiwindi Hervey Bay Maroochydore Rockhampton Southport Strathpine Toowoomba Warwick Townsville Cairns Mackay	Charleville Cunnamulla Murgon Roma St George Cooktown Thursday Island Mt Isa Normanton Palm Island	Brisbane Beenleigh Ipswich
Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc.)	4	8	1
	Albany Bunbury Geraldton Northam	Broome Carnarvon Fitzroy Crossing Halls Creek Kalgoorlie Kununurra Meekatharra South Hedland	Perth
Aboriginal Legal rights Movement Inc. (SA)	2	2	1
	Murray Bridge Port Augusta	Ceduna Port Lincoln	Adelaide
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc.	3	0	0
	Hobart Burnie Launceston		
North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency Ltd	1	2	0
	Darwin (Head Office)	Katherine Nhulunbuy	
Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service Incorporated (NT)	0	2	0
		Alice Springs (Head Office) - Tennant Creek	
TOTAL	47	26	9