

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

Group: Written

Program: 1.8

Question: BE14/098

Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:

1. The Home Insulation Program Royal Commission was reported to have a projected cost of around \$25m. Is that still the projected cost?
2. How much will the Royal Commission spend on lawyers?
3. How much will King & Wood Mallesons be paid in total?
4. What hourly charge-out rate has the Government negotiated for the various levels of lawyers working on the Royal Commission from King & Wood Mallesons?
5. Has King & Wood Mallesons made any political donations to the Liberal National Party in the last five years?
6. What hourly or daily rate will the Commonwealth be paying Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission?
7. What is the estimated cost to the Commonwealth of this Royal Commission for:
 - a. Disbursements?
 - b. Offices?
 - c. Administrative services and staff?
8. How many staff from the Attorney-General's Department are working on the Royal Commission? What is the estimated cost to the Department?
9. What are the departmental costs of this Royal Commission to the Departments of Finance, Treasury, PM&C and Environment?
10. What daily rate is being paid to the Royal Commissioner, Mr Hanger QC?
11. What is the total compensation to be paid to Mr Hanger QC for his work on this Royal Commission?

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

- 1) The projected cost for the Royal Commission is \$20 million. The figure includes costs for the Royal Commission, the Attorney-General's Department (representing the Commonwealth of Australia before the Commission), financial assistance for non-Commonwealth witnesses, and legal representation for witnesses.

- 2) The Office of the Royal Commission has an allocated budget of \$5.88 million for its legal services. As at 30 June 2014, the Commission had expended \$4.66 million on these legal services.
- 3) See answer to question 2 above.
- 4) This information is treated as commercial-in-confidence.
- 5) This question should be directed to the Australian Electoral Commission.
- 6) See answer to question 4 above.
- 7) See answer to question 2 above.

b and c) The Office of the Royal Commission has an allocated budget of \$490,000 for its accommodation and administrative services.
- 8) As at 30 June 2014, 11 staff from the Attorney-General's Department worked in the Office of the Royal Commission. These staff are paid from the Commission's operating budget. The projected cost for staff working in the Office of the Royal Commission is \$1.40 million.
- 9) This question should be directed to the respective departments.
- 10) See answer to 4 above.
- 11) See answer to 4 above.