

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Attorney General's Department

Program: 1.4 Justice Services

Question No. BE17-105

Senator McKim asked the following question on 26 May 2017:

Many CLCs rely on Telephone Interpreter Services (TIS) to assist clients. It is not clear what provision there is for TIS moving forward.

What funding, if any, under this source of funding is available for Telephone Interpreter Services? What is the Commonwealth doing to ensure people who do not speak English as their first language are able to access legal advice/assistance?

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

The Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) is an interpreting service provided by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. Since 2016-17, Commonwealth funding, previously allocated for community legal centre (CLCs) TIS usage under the Community Legal Services Program, has been included in the *National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services 2015-2020* and distributed to the states and territories. Funding for CLC interpreter services is a matter for state and territory governments and the sector. Each state and territory has individual arrangements with the TIS.