

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Attorney General's Department

Program: 1.4 Justice Services

Question No. BE17-107

Senator McKim asked the following question on 26 May 2017:

Under the National Partnership Agreement funding is specifically and separately allocated for Legal Aid Commissions and Community Legal Centres. The South Australian Government is currently in the process of implementing a centralised system for legal assistance where the Legal Services Commission will control eligibility assessment, triage and referral of clients. We understand a MOU has been signed between the SA Government and Legal Services Commission. Does the Government have a view on whether the SA Government is permitted to provide Commonwealth funding allocated to CLCs to the Legal Services Commission for the purposes of this new centralised system?

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

The *National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services 2015-2020* does not permit South Australia to reallocate Commonwealth community legal centre funding to the Legal Services Commission of South Australia.