

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

**Group 3**

**Program 1.3**

**Question No. SBE14/068**

**Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 20 November 2014:**

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Remind me what a regression analysis tells us.

Ms Quinn: I will do my best. We have engaged consultants specifically because we are not qualified to do the work. But regression analysis is about looking at the service level that has been delivered previously and, significantly through the consultation with the sector, indications of where a demand driver exists. It is about retrofitting what has happened with who has required services. I can take on notice to give you a more scientific answer, if you would like, because I would not like to do an injustice to the level of detail that is going into this work. In terms of consultation, we did the survey initially and we visited each jurisdiction. We met with the justice departments as well as all these service providers to discuss the elements that will go into the model, but we have not yet finalised a model. I know there is a level of frustration amongst providers, because once that model is developed it will go into the federal cabinet process and therefore not be something we are likely to be consulting on after the event.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: It is also something which will require agreement from the states and territories, isn't it?

Ms Quinn: Yes.

Mr Manning: All of these arrangements require agreement with the states and territories in relation to legal aid commissions and community legal centres. The Indigenous Legal Assistance Program is one through which the Commonwealth funds those providers directly. But we also want the states to agree that when they are doing the jurisdictional planning I spoke of earlier they will include Indigenous legal assistance providers as well.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Yes, Ms Quinn, I will take up your offer to have that dealt with on notice. I would be interested to see what that particular analysis is designed to yield.

Ms Quinn: No problem.

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

Regression analysis is used to determine the degree of correlation between a known variable and causal variables. The regression analysis conducted for the legal assistance funding allocation models used historical data to determine which factors influence demand for legal assistance services and to what extent. This analysis, along with other data and information, informs predictions of future need. It has enabled the consultants to develop predictive models of need that will drive funding allocations, to be considered as part of the Budget process.