

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

**Group: 2**

**Program: 1.3**

**Question No. SBE14/161**

**Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 20 November and 11 December 2014 hearings.**

1. The National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services is due to expire on 1 July 2015. When will the Government announce funding arrangements for legal assistance services beyond this date?
2. Have any legal assistance providers been advised of their funding beyond 1 July 2015? How and when has any advice been conveyed?
3. Will there be any reduction in funding to legal assistance services beyond those already announced by the Government?

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

1. The Government is currently considering Commonwealth funding arrangements for legal assistance to operate from 1 July 2015, with final decisions to be made as part of the 2015-16 Budget. The proposed arrangements will be announced after the Budget on 12 May 2015, with implementation subject to negotiations with the states and territories.
2. No.
3. Funding allocations for legal assistance programmes from 1 July 2015 will be determined as part of the 2015-16 Budget process.