

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

**Question: BET 69**

**Topic: Senior Counsel - Birdsville**

**Hansard Page: E91 (02/06/2010)**

**Senator XENOPHON asked:**

**Senator XENOPHON**—On how many occasions has the advice of senior counsel been sought in Birdsville type cases?

**Mr Cassidy**—I suspect we have probably got them in twice. I was going to say that we might have to take that on notice.

**Senator XENOPHON**—You believe it is twice?

**Mr Bezzi**—It has been at least once but it might be twice.

**Senator XENOPHON**—Okay—but it is in that order?

**Mr Bezzi**—Yes.

**Answer:**

The ACCC obtains legal advice from a variety of sources. In relation to alleged conduct that may contravene section 46(1AA) of the *Trade Practices Act 1974*, the ACCC has sought external legal advice in relation to two matters, one of which involved advice from senior counsel.