

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.1

Question No. 44

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2006:

Please provide a list of all Bills you are currently working on, including the date you started working on them, and the resources allocated to each Bill, the expected date of completion of a draft Bill and the expected date of completion of the final Bill.

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

Details of proposed legislation are confidential until the Government has announced a proposal for a Bill.

Currently the Criminal Justice Division is working on two Bills which have been the subject of Government announcement. They are:

The Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Terrorist Financing (AML/CTF) Bill

On 8 December 2003, the Government announced Australia would be implementing new global standards aimed at cracking down on money laundering and terrorist financing.

An exposure draft of the AML/CTF Bill was released for public comment on 16 December 2005. Consultation on this package will continue until 13 April 2006.

Resources are allocated to each Bill as the need arises. The Funding and Assets of Crime Section has had an average of 10 staff, and at times up to 12, under the supervision of a Band 1 SES officer working on a range of AML/CTF reform issues, which have included including development of the AML/CTF Bill and associated consultations with industry groups, over a period of some two years.

Law Enforcement Reform Bill

On the 16 June 2004, the Government announced that it would establish an independent body to address corruption amongst law enforcement officers at a national level.

The Bill

- provides for the establishment, functions and powers of an Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity, headed by a statutory Integrity Commissioner, as an independent body with special investigative powers to look into possible corruption in Australian Government law enforcement agencies and to recommend remedial measures, including prosecution, to the relevant authorities
- implements the government's response to the Fisher Review of Professional Standards in the Australian Federal Police

The Government is aiming for introduction in the Autumn 2006 sitting period.

Resources are allocated to each Bill as the need arises. The work for this Bill is currently being conducted by a team of four officers, headed by a Principal Legal Officer, under the supervision of a Band 1 SES officer.