

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

**Program 1.6**

**Question No. 77**

**Senator Back asked the following question at the hearing on 22 February 2011:**

**Senator BACK**—... I will not delay longer on this, but the second one relates to the same thing. It is a community in an area called Laura, which I understand to be about 250 kilometres north of Cairns. We have moved forward now. Cyclone Yasi was on 3 February. I understand the community of Laura to have been minimally affected, if at all, by Yasi. One quote in the local newspaper, the *Cairns Post*, was, I think, 'Not a twig was lost.' But that entire community also, upon request to Centrelink, received the \$1,000 per adult and \$400 per child.

**Mr Wilkins**—Are these AGDRP payments?

**Senator BACK**—Yes, the same payment—\$1,000 per adult and \$400 per child.

**Mr Wilkins**—They are not NDRRA payments?

**Senator BACK**—No. I understand them to have been AGDRP schedule payments.

**Mr Wilkins**—And the two communities?

**Senator BACK**—Yarrabah, on or around 20 January, and Laura, on or about 10 February—in the days after Cyclone Yasi. It perhaps causes you to understand the anxiety and concern of people in the Gascoyne, who actually were decimated, when stories of this nature came through.

**Mr Wilkins**—Let me take those on notice. A quick look did not identify them as communities under our schedules.

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

Laura is a town within the Local Government Area of Cook, north of Cairns. Laura was not declared as eligible for AGDRP as a result of Tropical Cyclone Yasi. However, a resident of Cook or any other LGA in Australia may claim for the AGDRP if they were affected by the Cyclone in another part of Queensland. For example, a person can be holidaying and not able to return home due to road or airport closures as a result of the disaster. In this instance they may meet the criteria of being unable to return to their principal place of residence.

As at 1 March 2011, a total of six adults with a home address in Cook have been granted the AGDRP.