

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

Program 1.2

Question No. 93

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

- A. According to an answer to a question on notice (Q64) the Department spent approximately \$25 000 on Community Engagement Forums in Sydney and Melbourne in July and December of 2010.
 - a. How was this money spent?
 - b. What was achieved/ what were the outcomes of the forums?
 - c. How many participants attended these forums?

- B. How many additional community forums will the Department conduct in 2011?
 - a. Where will these take place?
 - b. How much are they expected to cost?

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

- A.
 - a. Funding for the Community Engagement forums was spent on setting up and hosting of the events. This included travel and other costs associated with pre-event inspection of venues, venue hire, catering for attendees and equipment and technical support costs for the venue. Additional costs included logistical and administrative support as well as travel and accommodation costs for departmental staff. The figure of \$25,000 refers to the cost of hosting two events in Sydney and Melbourne in July 2010 and December 2010 respectively, as well as costs associated with the postponement of the original Sydney forum which was scheduled for June 2010 but, because of competing commitments, was deferred until July 2010.
 - b. The forums provided an opportunity for community representatives to inform government CVE policy and programs. Community representatives provided feedback on the issues of concern and discussed solutions including partnerships between government and communities to counter violent extremism. For example, communities identified issues that they considered to be drivers of radicalisation and identified the sorts of programs that they thought would be effective in addressing these drivers. The outcomes of these forums informed the development of the Youth Mentoring Grants program and Building Community Resilience Grants program. The forums also provided an opportunity for government to consult with community organisations on the range of support services and programs that were available to support communities and develop community awareness of CVE policies and programs.
 - c. The Sydney and Melbourne community engagement forums were attended by 26 and 22 people respectively.

- B. The Department plans to conduct several further community engagement forums during 2011.
 - a. The locations and dates of these forums are yet to be determined.

- b. The cost of future forums will depend on a number of variables including the location and duration of the event and the number of attendees.