

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

**Program 1.6**

**Question No. 50**

**Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2012:**

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** I have an article here from *PS News*, which says:

Minister for Emergency Management, Robert McClelland said the success of the free DisasterWatch app had resulted in fewer calls to Triple Zero for information.

Were they misquoting the minister?

**Mr Sheehan:** I think it is a reasonable statement on the basis that we have had 12,000 people download it and use it and that some of them would otherwise have called 000, but I cannot give you data as to how many.

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** It is actually supposition. There is no evidence at this stage that that is the case.

**Mr Sheehan:** To my knowledge—I will check with colleagues. In the event we have had direct feedback, we will take it on notice and provide you the direct feedback if we have that specifically about use of 000.

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** That would be nice.

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

Please see the response to part 1 of question number 54.