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

Group 1

Question No. 30

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 12 February 2013:

Senator HUMPHRIES: Again, two estimates hearings ago there was some discussion about, in particular, the investigation that was going on into you, Mr Smith. You will recall that Mr Wilkins made a comment that the department was auspicing some sort of investigation into complaints related to you. I do not know whether, Ms Kelly, you should answer this question or not. Has that particular departmentally auspiced investigation been completed?

Mr Smith: There was not an investigation into my conduct. There had been some matters raised and it is probably best if the department answers further on that.

Senator HUMPHRIES: I am looking at Mr Wilkins's language. He said, 'It is an inquiry that we have auspiced.' So investigation, inquiry, whatever it is.

Mr Smith: Just the connotation around 'investigation' would sort of suggest that there had been a code of conduct matter commenced against me, and that was not the case.

Senator HUMPHRIES: I understand that. Ms Kelly, can you detail what exactly the nature of that, as Mr Wilkins put it, inquiry, actually was or is?

Ms Kelly: I understand that the matter has concluded. But could I take that on notice and provide you with the details that we are able to provide you with on notice?

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

A number of issues were raised with the CrimTrac Board by the CEO. A code-of-conduct investigation was auspiced by AGD which considered conflict of interest, procurement irregularities, and bullying and harassment.