

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

Group 2

Program 1.3

Question No. 36

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

Senator BRANDIS: If that construction is correct, can I ask you to take up the former Attorney-General's letter of 31 January 2013 to the President of the Senate, pursuant to the orders of the Senate agreed to on 24 June 2008, containing particulars of all grants within the Attorney-General Portfolio for the period of 25 September 2012 to 21 January 2013 and turn to page 2 of attachment A.

Senator BRANDIS: That is good. Go to the second page. You will see that, beginning from the very first item on the second page under the heading 'Program title', there are six items entitled 'Financial assistance towards legal costs and related expenses'. That is, may I take it, the program to which you have referred me, which includes the Native Title Respondent Funding Scheme?

Mr Fredericks: Yes. I will refer to Mr Duggan.

Senator BRANDIS: Is that right?

Mr Duggan: They would include some of those payments.

Senator BRANDIS: That is what I said, yes. Of the six items, in each case 'name omitted for privacy reasons', which include relatively modest sums ranging from \$1,318.18 to the largest item, which is \$11,300, how much of those items was payments to respondents for the purpose of the Native Title Respondent Funding Scheme?

Mr Duggan: I need to take that question on notice.

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

The Native Title Respondent Funding scheme is one of the 24 schemes reported under the item 'Financial assistance towards legal costs and related expenses'.

None of the six items listed under the program title 'Financial Assistance towards legal and related costs' in the Attorney-General's letter of 31 January 2013 were grants provided under the Native Title Respondent Funding Scheme.