

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Output 2.1**

**Question No. 52**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2006:**

What is the total costing of the national identity security strategy, including the document verification service, how much has been spent and how much is intended to be spent?

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

In the 2005-06 Budget the Australian Government allocated \$5.9 million over two years to initiate the development of a national identity security strategy, including two pilot projects.

- The first project pilots an online document verification service to check key documents presented for identification purposes to DIMA and DFAT.
- The second project pilots measures to improve the accuracy of personal identity information held by the ATO about individual taxpayers.

This allocation will be spent by December 2006 as foreshadowed in the 2005 Budget papers.

The Attorney-General's Department and other agencies have committed additional resources to the development of the Strategy as part of their core activities which cannot be accurately quantified as being expended against the National Identity Security Strategy.

The Australian Government also announced in the 2006-07 Budget funding of \$28.3 million over four years for the development and implementation of a national DVS for use by authorised government agencies. Funding will be provided to the following agencies:

- Attorney-Generals Department \$24.8m
- Office of the Privacy Commissioner \$1.3m
- Australian Crime Commission \$0.7m
- ASIO \$1.6m

Part of the allocation to the Attorney-General's Department will be used to fund system upgrades for both the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs to allow a national DVS to operate effectively.