

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

Sub Program 1.1.2

Question No. 131

Senator Ludlam asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2009:

Under operation Themis, 18 new police stations have been established in the NT. Currently only three of these communities have courts – how are the travel needs of defendants and victims being catered for now that the law enforcement capabilities have been increased?

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

The primary responsibility for these issues rests with the Northern Territory Government.

In 2009-10 the Australian Government will provide funding of \$2.5 million to meet the legal needs of Indigenous Australians arising from the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER), including legal advice and representation and community legal education and outreach services. A further \$1 million will be provided for welfare rights legal assistance and outreach services, including providing early dispute resolution services to divert Indigenous people away from the legal system by providing information and advice on their social security rights in relation to NTER measures.