

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

Group 3

Program 1.2

Question No. 23

Senator Boyce asked the following question at the hearing on 29 May 2013:

Senator BOYCE: All right. I will follow on with some questions I had around the Australian government disaster financial support payments. I understand that there were at least 11 small businesses in Banana Shire who asked for the Australian government disaster financial support payments because of damage caused by the Australia Day floods but have been refused this.

...

Senator BOYCE: Banana Shire Council advises me that they have contacted the government on a number of occasions seeking an explanation for this and have yet to receive a response that explains the problem.

Mr Wilkins: I am not aware of that, but I will certainly take it on notice and come back to you on it.

Senator BOYCE: I am more than happy to provide their correspondence; I cannot do it right now.

Mr Wilkins: I would not mind further details of the sort that you referred to, but we will certainly look into that and come back to you.

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

Clean-up and Recovery Grants of up to \$25,000 may be made available under Category C of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements where the Prime Minister agrees to the Commonwealth cost sharing this assistance, following a request made by a State or Territory government.

The Queensland Government has not made a request to the Commonwealth Government to provide Category C assistance to the small business sector in the Local Government Area of Banana following the Australia Day floods.