

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

Group 2

Program 1.1

Question No. 62

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

Mr Minogue: ... Our internal legal spend for 2011-12 for Attorney-General's Department was \$1.422 million.

Senator BRANDIS: This is a slightly arcane question, Mr Wilkins, but my understanding of the way in which the Attorney-General's Department provides legal advice to government is that it sometimes provides formal written advice but it also, because of the nature of the Attorney-General's Department, is consulted all the time, particularly by the central agencies of government, in relation to, as it were, high-level matters. Are consultations included in that or—

Mr Wilkins: I think we are only identifying quite formal advising—

Senator BRANDIS: That is what I was wondering.

Mr Wilkins: And I think there is a lot of other scrutiny, advice, consultation, where we sit on committees and give—

Senator BRANDIS: Yes, that is what I was getting at. Is the Commonwealth Solicitor-General's salary included in that, by the way?

Mr Minogue: I would have to take that on notice. I do not think it is.

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

The \$1.422 million represents the Attorney-General's Department's internal legal spend for 2011-12. It does not include the Solicitor-General's salary.