

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
OFFICE OF THE PRIVACY COMMISSIONER

Question No. 159

Senator Stott-Despoja asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:

- a) Has the Privacy Commissioner provided advice to the Government on the privacy implications of the Anti-Terrorism Bill?
- b) Given the community interest in this issue, why has the Commissioner not made a public statement of her views, following the lead of other independent statutory officers such as the President of the Human Rights Commission?

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

- a) The Privacy Commissioner has not provided advice to the Government on the privacy implications of the Anti-Terrorism Bill 2005 or the Anti-Terrorism Bill (No. 2) 2005. On 1 November 2005 representatives from the Attorney General's Department briefed the Commissioner on the Anti-Terrorism Bill (No. 2) 2005.
- b) The Commissioner's views on the Anti-Terrorism Bill are set out in her submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee Inquiry into the provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Bill (No. 2) 2005.