

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

**Output 2.1**

**Question No. 49**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2006:**

Regarding the \$24.8 million funding provided for the development of a national Document Verification System (per answer to QON 52 from May 2006 Estimates):

- (a) How much of this funding has been expended so far?
- (b) Is this expenditure on target?
- (c) Have any additional funds been requested? If so, give details as to the: (i) amount requested; (ii) amount provided; and (iii) need for the additional funding.
- (d) Provide a list of key dates for the project.
- (e) Have all key dates so far been met? If not, give details.

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

(a) The Attorney General's Department was allocated \$8.196 million in financial year 2006/07 for development of the national Document Verification Service (DVS). As at 31 October 2006, approximately \$2.2 million had been spent.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) A prototype DVS has been in operation since February 2006, and has continued to operate at its current capacity from 1 July 2006. An evaluation of the prototype will be completed by December 2006. The evaluation results will inform the development of the national DVS.

Information technology and data enhancements are in progress to strengthen the capability of the DVS to handle an increased volume of document verification requests. For example, the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs is currently back capturing relevant historical data, examining options for verifying visas and international movement records, and analysing the necessary information technology requirements. These enhancements will continue over the next 12 months.

The Attorney-General's Department was funded in the 2006 Budget to implement the national DVS over a four year period. Since July 2006 staff have been recruited and a project implementation plan is under development. Negotiations with the States and Territories have commenced and are continuing. A privacy impact statement on the operation of the national DVS will be completed in early 2007.

(e) Yes.