



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Social Inclusion Division

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By: *Senator Barnett*

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Ms Julie Dennett
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Dennett

Additional Estimates Hearings October 2009, Attorney-General's Department – Question on Notice 51

At the Senate Estimates Hearings on 19 October 2009 regarding the Attorney-General's Department Portfolio Budget Statements, Senator Guy Barnett asked the Department to provide the total cost of legal aid provided to the five Sydney terrorists who were arrested in November 2005 and have since been found guilty of terrorism offences. The response to Question on Notice 51 was tabled on Friday 4 December 2009. I am writing to provide an amended Departmental response to the Committee in relation to this matter.

The Department has since been advised by Legal Aid NSW that the information provided in the response to Question on Notice 51 identifies the cost of legal aid for all nine persons charged in this matter and not the cost of legal aid for the five persons who went to trial.

Yours sincerely


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

Sub Program 1.1.2

Question No. 51

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 19 October 2009:

Provide the total cost of legal aid provided to the five Sydney terrorists who were arrested in November 2005 and have since been found guilty of terrorism offences.

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

Nine persons were charged in this matter. Four of the accused persons entered guilty pleas during the course of the trial. Legal Aid New South Wales has advised the Department that as at 30 September 2009 it has incurred costs of \$10.117 million in the provision of legal assistance for all of the nine accused persons involved in this matter.

These expenses have been met from the Expensive Commonwealth Criminal Cases Fund which is a dedicated fund established for Commonwealth criminal law cases to ensure that the cost of these matters does not impact on the level of Commonwealth funding available for other Commonwealth law matters, such as family law.