

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SOLICITOR

Question No. 54

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2011:

Senator BRANDIS: Other than Mr Deane and leaving aside essentially formal matters like doing the solicitor's work in the High Court appeal, did other officers of the Australian Government Solicitor provide advice to the immigration department concerning the Malaysia solution?

Mr Govey: I would need to take that on notice.

Senator BRANDIS: Do you know?

Mr Govey: No, I do not. I think it is true that other officers were involved but whether or not anybody else gave advice I am not sure about.

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

AGS advises that besides Mr Deane, who is AGS Special Counsel to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, one other AGS lawyer was involved in providing advice to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship on aspects of the Malaysian arrangement, in particular in obtaining advice from the Solicitor-General together with other external counsel. AGS confirms that it was the solicitor on the record for the High Court challenge.