



**Australian Government**  
**Attorney-General's Department**

**Information Law and  
Human Rights Division**

9 June 2005

Ms S Power  
Principal Research Officer  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee Secretariat  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Power

**Amplification of statements to the Committee at its hearings in Sydney on 19 May 2005.**

Thank you for sending me the proof Hansard transcript of the above mentioned proceedings. I have read the transcript. I do not see the need to make any corrections to the record of my evidence. However, I would like to amplify two of my responses.

I advised the Committee (see page L&C 61 of the transcript) that a sum of \$225,000 would be available and that the Privacy Commissioner could spend it on salaries. I now confirm the sum and that it is for staffing for 18 months at the Executive Level 1.

The second matter relates to Information Law Branch's participation in the various identity security committees and sub-committees. At page L&C 64 I indicated that Information Law Branch is represented and attended meetings on all of those bodies. I wish to amplify that by advising that Information Law Branch can attend any meetings of those bodies and will continue to attend the meetings on a "when warranted" basis.

I also attach answers to the questions on notice from the hearings.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Philippa Lynch'.

Philippa Lynch  
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SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION  
REFERENCES COMMITTEE  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Inquiry into the Privacy Act 1988**

**Question 1**

**Senator Sttot Despoja asked the following question at the hearing on 19 May 2005**

Has it [the government response to the ALRC report Essentially Yours] gone to Cabinet yet?

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

In accordance with the practice of successive governments of not making public any aspect of Cabinet deliberations, I can neither confirm nor deny whether the government response is likely to be or has been considered by Cabinet.

**Question 2**

**Senator Sttot Despoja asked the following question at the hearing on 19 May 2005**

Can you tell me what review of the political party exemption is being undertaken at the moment?

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

The review of the 2001 election by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral matters considered access by political parties to the electoral roll.

The Department is not aware of any review that has considered the exemption for political acts and practices.