

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

Program 1.1

Question No. 54

Senator Siewert asked the following question at the hearing on 22 February 2011:

1. The change in focus to post-separation and subsequent decrease in AGD investment in other programs is a significant shift. What can you tell me about the impact of this shift on the service providers?
2. Will the AGD be investing in any of the relationship education and counselling programs that FRC's also undertake?

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

1. Attorney-General's Department funded services under the Family Relationship Services Program have been and will continue to provide services to separating and separated families to assist them to resolve their disputes without going to court. There has been no shift in the focus of these services.
2. Family Relationship Centres (FRCs) offer a range of services to strengthen family relationships, help families stay together and assist families through separation. The only FRC service that will be subject to fees is family dispute resolution. Other FRC services provided with funding provided by the Attorney-General's Department will continue to be provided.