

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Question No. 7

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2011:

Senator BRANDIS: I do not want to waste any time. All I want to know is whether the meeting [of the Family Law Court Advisory Group] has taken place.

Mr Foster: I am sorry, but I will have to take that question on notice.

Senator BRANDIS: Has any meeting of the Family Law Courts Advisory Group taken place this year?

Mr Foster: There was a combined meeting of the two courts policy advisory committees.

Senator BRANDIS: Is that the same thing as the Family Law Courts Advisory Group?

Mr Foster: No, it is not the same group. These are the two policy advisory committees—one to the Chief Federal Magistrate and one to the Chief Justice. They would have an annual meeting—

Senator BRANDIS: Sorry to cut you off, but you sit on the Family Law Courts Advisory Group so you would know whether a meeting of that body has taken place since the beginning of this year.

Mr Foster: My memory is that it was not because we had a combined policy advisory committee meeting on 18 April, of which I could certainly table the minutes of that meeting if you desired them.

Senator BRANDIS: Take it on notice, by all means, to satisfy yourself that your answer is right, but to the best of your recollection there has not been a meeting of the Family Law Courts Advisory Group this year?

Mr Foster: That is right, because we had that combined policy advisory committee meeting in lieu of that.

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

A meeting of the Family Law Courts Advisory Committee has not been held this year to date.