

Response to Question on Notice provided by Family Relationship Services Australia on 17 July 2011

Coordinated Family Dispute Resolution

On 24 March 2011, the Attorney-General Robert McClelland announced a co-ordinated family dispute resolution pilot aimed at providing a safe and supported family dispute resolution option in cases where there is family violence.

The pilot allows family members who are experiencing family violence (or have experienced it in the past) to access a safe family dispute resolution process, and the benefits mediation offers. The pilot brings together family dispute resolution practitioners, legal practitioners, domestic violence and men's support services to assist separating parents to make parenting arrangements.

The Coordinated Family Dispute Resolution model was developed by Women's Legal Service in Brisbane and the pilot is being evaluated by the Australian Institute of Family Studies. The model is being piloted in five locations:

- **Newcastle, led by Interrelate**
- **Hobart, led by Relationships Australian Tasmania**
- **Western Sydney, led by Unifam**
- **Perth, led by Legal Aid WA, and**
- **Brisbane using a telephone dispute resolution service by Relationships Australia Queensland.**

The pilots are part of the Governments response to the Time for Action report by the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women

(from the Attorney-General's Department website:

http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Families_Familyviolence?open&query=family)