

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

1.1 AGD Operating Expenses - Civil Justice and Legal Services

Question No. SBE16/100

Senator Rice asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2016:

1. I note the release of the Exposure Draft of the Marriage Amendment (Same-Sex Marriage) Bill 2016 by the Attorney-General on 11 October 2016.
 - a. What is the status of the consequential amendments that would be required to complete this draft bill and could the Department please provide a copy of such amendments?
 - b. If the drafting of the amendments is are not yet finalised, could the Department please provide a description of the thematic areas and statutes to which they pertain and a due date for their public release?
 - c. The draft Bill appears to be missing an Objects clause. Could the Department please advise as to whether an objects clause will be inserted into the draft Bill and provide a copy of such clause?
 - d. The terms 'religious organisation' and 'religious body' in Clause 47B of the draft Bill are not defined. Could the Department please provide the definitions proposed for these terms?

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

1.
 - a. The final form of any Government Bill is a matter for the Government.
 - b. The final form of any Government Bill is a matter for the Government.
 - c. The final form of any Government Bill is a matter for the Government.
 - d. The final form of any Government Bill is a matter for the Government.