

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 7

**Question No:** 199

**Topic:** Domestic Violence Orders

**Hansard Page:** 21/10/2011 CA26

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Does the ABS Publication Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2009 - go into why the breaches of Domestic Violence Orders would be occurring?

Is anybody looking at what is driving the increase in actual breaches?

Is the Department suggesting that the increase could be attributed to the fact that there are more instances and more orders?

**Answer:**

Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia 2010, ABS Cat no. 4510.0 does not include information about Domestic Violence Orders (DVOs). The 2009 publication does, however, provide details on factors that have affected domestic violence data in the NT including the introduction of mandatory reporting of reporting of domestic and family violence incidents and an accompanying publicity campaign in March 2009.

The Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory Monitoring Report for June 2011 shows a 64 per cent increase in NT Police confirmed incidents for breaches of domestic violence orders (DVOs) between 2008-09 and 2010-11 (Table 6.3) in NTER communities. It is important to understand that these incidents recorded by police will comprise formal breaches of domestic violence orders.

Northern Territory Department of Justice data for DVOs granted and DVOs formally breached shows that the ratio of breaches to DVOs has actually dropped from 29 per cent of all DVOs granted in NTER communities for 2005-06 to 2007-08 to 22 per cent per annum of all DVOs granted between 2008-09 and 2010-11.

New laws in the Northern Territory such as mandatory reporting of domestic violence incidents and enabling police to apply for a violence order on behalf of a victim have contributed to the rise in DVO applications in recent years. This is driving increases in the absolute number of formal breaches – the actual proportion of domestic violence orders that are breached has fallen.