

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Additional Estimates Spill-over hearing March 2017**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Department of Communications and the Arts**

**Question No: 307**

**Program 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: Pages 55-56, 24/03/2017**

**Topic: Revenge Porn – Consultation with women’s sector**

**Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked:**

**Senator O'NEILL:** That is probably the answer to my next question, but did you consult with the women's sector before that announcement?

**Senator FIFIELD:** I will take on notice exactly what consultation occurred. As you would appreciate, it is an area in a sense that Minister Cash and I share together. Our intention is for there to be good consultation that will occur after we release a discussion paper in the near future.

**Senator O'NEILL:** Could you identify any stakeholders who have expressed support for a civil penalties regime?

**Senator FIFIELD:** I will take that on notice. I just do not have that file with me here at the moment.

**Senator O'NEILL:** This question is for the department—

**Senator FIFIELD:** Sorry, did you ask specifically in relation to women's groups or stakeholders more generally?

**Senator O'NEILL:** Any stakeholders with regard to the civil penalties regime.

**Senator FIFIELD:** The Law Council is one that immediately comes to mind.

**Senator O'NEILL:** Will you provide others on notice?

**Senator FIFIELD:** Yes.

**Senator O'NEILL:** Can you name any women's groups?

**Senator FIFIELD:** I will get that information for you.

**Answer:**

Calls for a multifaceted approach to the non-consensual sharing of intimate images have been made in a range of forums which have included consultation with the women’s sector, law enforcement agencies, victims and other representative groups. These views have been discussed at the COAG Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence Against Women and their Children (April 2016), at the 2016 WESNET Technology Safety Summit, at the 2016 COAG National Summit on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children, and to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee inquiry into the *Phenomenon colloquially referred to as 'revenge porn', which involves sharing private sexual images and recordings of a person without their consent, with the intention to cause that person harm* (which reported in February 2016).

The Department of Communications and the Arts will shortly release a discussion paper on a proposed prohibition and civil penalty regime. Feedback, via written submission, will be sought from a wide range of stakeholders including women’s organisations and people who have had their intimate images shared without consent. The public consultation process will be open for four weeks from the release of the discussion paper and will include the opportunity to provide written responses as well as to attend face-to-face workshops.