

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

Group: 2

Program: 1.1

Question No. AE15/098

Senator Moore asked the following question at the hearing on 27 March 2015:

Ms Mitchell: Yes. AIHW is under Minister Ley's portfolio, whereas ABS is under the Treasurer's portfolio. I have already had some initial indications from the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer that the ABS will be providing information of the kind that I have asked for on a regular basis. I do need to confirm what that looks like and what form it is going to take, but that is a good early indication that there might be some movement in that area.

Senator MOORE: And Minister Morrison? You have already published in the report that the AIFS study is now picking up the particular question, which is a huge advance. So it is back through Minister Morrison's department.

Ms Mitchell: Yes. Children's issues are disparately located across government, so a relationship with Minister Morrison will be important to advance the recommendations as well.

Senator MOORE: But your basic report goes to the Attorney-General first, and then it is tabled?

Ms Mitchell: It goes to the parliament via the Attorney-General.

Senator MOORE: From the Attorney's point of view, when you get a report of this nature—and this was late last year?

Ms Mitchell: December.

Senator MOORE: December last year. The process is it comes back to the Attorney. Does the Attorney's department have any role in coordinating the response? When you have a range of recommendations across so many different departments, does it have a responsibility to do any coordination work there?

Mr Reid: Yes, that is right. We have started working through the recommendations in the commissioner's report. I will have to take on notice the engagement we have had with other departments at this stage, but we will have a role in bringing people together. I do not know whether we will end up coordinating issues or whether different portfolios will take things forward separately.

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

The Attorney-General's Department referred the recommendations contained in the 2014 Children's Rights report to responsible areas of the government for their consideration.