

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

Program: 1.5

Question No. AE16/065

Senator Waters asked the following question at the hearing on 9 February 2016:

1. Are you familiar with the reporting in The Monthly and ABC's Background Briefing by Jess Hill from last year that called into question the practices of some prominent family report writers operating in private practice?
2. Are you satisfied that the concerns raised in those reports have been adequately addressed?
3. Has the government identified the individual cases reported in the above coverage?
4. Does the government have any plans to ensure those individual cases receive attention and review?

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

1. Yes.
2. The practices of family report writers are a matter for the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia.
3. No.
4. No. It is not the role of the government to interfere with, or comment on, individual cases that have been, or are, before the courts.