

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

Group: 2

Program: 1.1

Question: BE14/028

Senator McDonald asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:

CHAIR: Getting back to my original question, is it easy to assess how many of the submissions you have received have been of the type that we call form letters?

Senator Brandis: Most of them, certainly.

CHAIR: Is anyone going to count them at some stage. If someone is looking through them—and I do not want you to do this as a special exercise for me—is it possible to get, to the nearest couple of dozen, a count of how many of the total number of submissions received, because someone obviously counts them, were of the form-letter type, whether there are for one view or another.

Senator Brandis: I will take that on notice.

CHAIR: I do not want you to spend too much time on it.

Senator WRIGHT: Can I ask you to take on notice the number that were in favour and those that were against, and the number—

Senator Brandis: No, I am not going to do that exercise.

Senator WRIGHT: So what is the efficacy of that particular question as opposed to the one I legitimately put earlier? I do not understand why the distinction.

Senator Brandis: What we are searching for are people's ideas.

Senator WRIGHT: But you have agreed to take on notice a question about how many were form letters and how many were not.

Senator Brandis: I will have a look at it.

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

The Government is no longer proceeding with the proposed amendment.