

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

Group: 2

Program: 1.6

Question No. BE15/061

Senator Wright asked the following written question from the 27 and 28 May 2015 hearing:

1. Given that 'safer communities' is one of the Government's stated priorities in the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, will ATSILS be funded to support Aboriginal Communities in advancing family law, Care and Protection and Civil Law?

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

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services are funded to provide a range of legal services including family, care and protection and civil law.

Priority clients are people whose capability to resolve legal problems is compromised by circumstances of vulnerability and/or disadvantage. This includes:

- children and young people (up to 24 years),
- people experiencing financial disadvantage,
- older people (aged over 65 years),
- people experiencing, or at risk of, family violence,
- people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness,
- people in custody and prisoners,
- people residing in rural or remote areas,
- people with a disability or mental illness,
- people with a low proficiency in English,
- people with low education levels, and
- single parents.