

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Attorney General's Department

Program 1.1: AGD Operating Expenses Civil Justice and Legal Services

Question No. BE17-018

Senator Waters asked the following question on 24 May 2017:

Senator WATERS: Is there going to be a screening mechanism for cases where there are allegations of violence?

Senator Brandis: This is a pilot program, so let us not get ahead of ourselves.

Senator WATERS: I understand it is a pilot, but within the pilot will there be a screening mechanism? Obviously, mediation is not appropriate where there are allegations of DV.

Senator Brandis: Indeed. As to the specific design features of this pilot program, let me take that on notice.

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

During the pilot program, high risk and complex matters will not be heard in a Parenting Management Hearing. A screening mechanism will be necessary to give effect to this policy. The screening mechanism will include screening for domestic and family violence and child abuse.