

# **SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017**

### **Attorney General's Department**

#### **Program: 1.4 Justice Services**

#### **Question No. BE17-149**

**Senator Pratt asked the following question on 05 June 2017:**

- 1) Where will the six new domestic violence units, announced in the budget, be located?
- 2) Is any of the \$3.4 million announced in the budget going towards the existing domestic violence units?
- 3) Of the domestic violence units announced in the Women's Safety Package in September 2015, how many are currently operational?
- 4) What evaluation has been undertaken to ascertain whether the establishment of the initial domestic violence units has improved access to justice, and support, for domestic violence victims?

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

- 1) The locations of the additional domestic violence units have not been decided. The Attorney-General's Department (the department) is currently consulting with the states and territories to seek information about areas of greatest legal need for specialist domestic violence services in each jurisdiction, and advice on suitable service providers to deliver additional services in those locations. The department is also seeking the views of the legal assistance sector peak bodies, and other relevant stakeholders, about factors that should be considered in determining the allocation of the funding. The input received will inform the department's recommendations to Government about how best to expand the pilot programme.
- 2) The allocation of the \$3.4 million has not been decided. The funding will be allocated to suitable providers to establish up to six additional domestic violence units. This may include establishing new units, expanding existing units to new locations, establishing partnerships between existing units and other service providers in a new location, or a combination of all three.
- 3) All twelve domestic violence units announced in the Women's Safety Package in September 2015 are operational.
- 4) A national evaluation of the existing pilots is due to commence later this year and be finalised in 2018. This evaluation will assess the effectiveness of the pilot programme.