

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 1.1

Question No. 10

Senator Siewert asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2006:

Family Relationship Centres:

- (a) Has a decision been made on the allocation of time and resources between the roles of the Family Relationship Centres, particularly between the functions of relationship support and mediation for separating couples?
- (b) if so, what is that allocation?
- (c) if not, how will these decisions be made?
- (d) When will the competency standards referred to in Question No 24 of 31 October 2005, be finalised?
- (e) How will the Government implement these new competency standards in the Family Relationship Centres?

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

- (a) The Government has not attributed a specific allocation of time and resources to the relationship support and dispute resolution functions of the Family Relationship Centres.
- (b) Please see the above response to part (a).
- (c) It will be up to the organisation contracted to operate each Family Relationship Centre to decide the allocation of time and resources across the various functions of the Centre. The operator of each Centre will be expected to allocate time and resources in order to meet the objectives and requirements which the Government has set for the Centres. The operator's performance in achieving these objectives will be measured against key performance indicators.
- (d) The competency standards being developed by the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council are expected to be finalised in mid-2006.
- (e) The Government is currently considering how the competency standards will be implemented in Family Relationships Centres. In the meantime the current standards and requirements that apply to other services under the Family Relationship Services Program will apply to the Centres, including requirements relating to mediators set out in the Family Law Regulations.