

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

Output 1.1

Question No. 19

Senator Evans asked the following question at the hearing on 13 February 2007:

- a) Did the department meet with the Exclusive Brethren?
- b) Did the Exclusive Brethren attend public forums engaged by the Department?
 - i) If so, where and on what dates
- c) Has the department provided advice to the Minister on concerns about the Exclusive Brethren and their interaction with the Family Law Act?

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

- a) No.
- b) In relation to the family law reforms consultation process undertaken between November 2004 and February 2005, none of those who attended the community forums organised by the Department identified themselves as belonging to or representing the Exclusive Brethren.
- c) As was indicated at the hearing on 13 February 2007, the Attorney-General met with representatives of the Exclusive Brethren in April 2005 and the Department provided briefing for the meeting in accordance with its usual practice for preparing briefings for meetings.