

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

Program 1.1

Question No. 9

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2011:

Senator BRANDIS: Minister, dealing now with the Family Court, are you able to tell us when the issue of the respective jurisdiction in relation to family law matters between the Family Court and the FMC will be clarified by the legislation?

Senator Ludwig: My earlier response would be the same.

Senator BRANDIS: The timing is a matter for the government?

Senator Ludwig: Thank you.

Senator BRANDIS: ... When will the legislation be introduced?

Senator Ludwig: The timing of that is still a matter for government, but I am happy to take it on notice to see whether the Attorney-General wants to provide an answer to your question about a date.

Senator BRANDIS: Without asking you about anything that may have happened in cabinet, which I do not do, can you tell me whether the matter has gone to cabinet?

Senator Ludwig: I will take that on notice.

Senator BRANDIS: All right.

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

The Attorney-General intends to re-introduce the Access to Justice (Family Court Restructure) Bill in 2011, subject to general legislative programming.