

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

Output 1.1

Question No. 7

Senator Stott-Despoja asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:

Research undertaken on the first three years of the *Family Law Reform Act* demonstrated that those legislative provisions introduced in 1996 increased litigation and left women and children at greater risk of being subjected to violence, at least at interim hearing stages. Has the Department been asked to commission independent research, or are they aware of any commissioning of such research, on the impact of the *Shared Parental Responsibility Bill*?

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

Recommendation 14 of the Committee's Report recommended that the Government commission longitudinal research into the issue of the impact of family violence and abuse in family law proceedings. The Government has indicated in its response to the Committee that it agrees with this recommendation.