

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

Output 1.1

Question No. 8

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

What assurances can the Department offer that the provisions in the *Shared Parental Responsibility Bill* requiring parties to attend dispute resolution before they can issue court applications will not cause unsafe delays for parties who need to obtain court orders as a matter of urgency – eg where there has been violence or abuse?

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

In these cases parties may apply directly to the court for urgent orders. Where parties do attend a Family Relationship Centre, screening for violence and child abuse will be a priority and the Centres will be able to provide information and advice on options and support services.