

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

**Output 1.7**

**Question No. 40**

**Senator Crossin asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2006:**

The Attorney-General has flagged changes to the way that Community Legal Centres (CLCs) are funded, particularly their role in advocacy and law reform:

- (a) Are these comments based on any work by the Department?
- (b) Has the Department now been asked to do any work to plan and implement these changes?
- (c) What is the detail or timing of any of this work?

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

- (a) It is not appropriate to disclose what, if any, advice the Department gave to the Government on this issue.
- (b) The Attorney-General has asked the Department to undertake a review of the Community Legal Services Program. The review will look at the role of the program, service delivery models and accountability requirements with a view to improving the effectiveness of the Program with a strong focus on servicing clients.
- (c) The Attorney-General has asked the Department to report to him in June 2007. The review includes the development of a new funding model for community legal centres for consideration in the negotiation of new service agreements in 2008.