Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee

Inquiry into the Exposure Draft of the Anti-Money Laundering Counter-Terrorism Bill 2005

PUBLIC HEARING

Question on Notice

Senator Ludwig asked Mr Geoff Gray – Attorney-General's Department, upon notice on 14 March 2006:

- To respond to the issues raised in the submission by Allens Arthur Robinson to the Inquiry with particular reference to designated services;
- To indicate whether the Attorney-General's Department has taken these issues into consideration.

Mr Geoff Gray —The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The Attorney-General's Department is currently considering a range of issues raised in submissions to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee's Inquiry. The submission from Allens Arthur Robinson raises seven sets of issues, all of which will be addressed as part of the Department's consideration of suggested amendments to the exposure draft AML/CTF Bill.

Of the specific concerns about the designated services listed in section 6 of the exposure Bill, the suggested amendments to the definition of lending in Item 6 have already been identified as requiring attention and will be addressed at the re-drafting stage. The suggested restriction to payments made under guarantees in Item 57 of the exposure Bill will also be addressed when finalising the Bill.

The suggestions made in the Allens Arthur Robinson submission concerning Item 17 of the exposure Bill raise important policy issues which are currently being considered by the Attorney-General's Department.