



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Criminal Justice Division

11/22811

4 June 2012

Ms Julie Dennett
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Dennett

Question on Notice - Inquiry into Marriage Visa Classes

The Attorney-General's Department took the following question on notice at the Committee's public hearing on 25 May 2012:

*What is the current status of the Australian Government's response to the Australian Law Reform Commission's report *Family Violence and Commonwealth Laws: Improving Legal Frameworks*, and in particular recommendation 20.1, which is about amending the regulations to enable prospective marriage visa holders to access the family violence exception? There seems to be a growing consensus that it is an important reform?*

The Department's response is as follows:

*The Australian Government is currently considering the recommendations in the Australian Law Reform Commission's report *Family Violence and Commonwealth Laws – Improving Legal Frameworks* and will respond in due course. On 5 April 2012, the Attorney-General's Department chaired an interagency working committee meeting to consider and progress the recommendations. A follow-up meeting is scheduled to take place before the end of June 2012.*

I would also like to take this opportunity to correct our response to the Committee regarding the number of submissions received to the consultation process on the exposure draft of the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Slavery, Slavery-like Conditions and People Trafficking) Bill. The Department received 26 submissions to the consultation process rather than 17 submissions.

I hope this information is of assistance to the Committee.

The action officer for this matter is Rachel Field who can be contacted on
to

or by email

Yours sincerely

Sarah Chidgey
Assistant Secretary
Criminal Law and Law Enforcement Branch