

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

**Program: 1.5 Family Relationships**

**Question No. AE17/073**

**Senator Pratt asked the following question at the hearing on 28 February 2017:**

- 1) Has the Department been asked to develop any briefings for Government Ministers on the issue of cross-examination of domestic violence victims by their abusers?
- 2) Has the Department engaged in any consultation with stakeholders on this issue?

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

1. Yes, the department has provided input to briefings for Government Ministers about the issue of cross-examination of domestic violence victims by their alleged perpetrators.
2. Yes. On 10 March 2016, the Department hosted a roundtable which involved a range of stakeholders in the family law system. Since that time, the Department has continued to engage with a range of stakeholders on this issue, including the federal family law courts, National Legal Aid and the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia.