

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Attorney General's Department

Program: 1.1 AGD Operating Expenses - Civil Justice and Legal Services

Question No. BE17-145

Senator Roberts asked the following question on 13 June 2017:

Rather than looking for government to intervene to strengthen family relationships, has it looked at removing those past & current government interventions that perhaps unintentionally have weakened such relationships?

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

The Australian Government regularly reviews its policies and programs in the family law system. The Government is committed to ongoing improvements to the family law system, to ensure the best possible outcomes for families, particularly children. Additionally, on 9 May 2017, the Attorney-General announced that he would direct the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) to conduct a comprehensive review of the family law system, with a view to making necessary reforms to ensure the family law system meets the contemporary needs of families and effectively addresses family violence and child abuse. It is expected that the ALRC review will consider the effectiveness of existing policy settings and programs.