

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

Program: General

Question No. SBE15/013

Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2015:

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: I would like to understand the impact on the operations of the department of the amendments to the administrative arrangements. Most of them seem to make sense to me—with respect to the announced changes regarding censorship, copyright and the arts. One that I would like you to explain to me—you may be able to do so fairly easily—is the Circuit Layouts Act 1989. What does that relate to?

Senator Brandis: I think that that is an intellectual property statute. Consistently with the Prime Minister's view that intellectual property issues lie more naturally with the communications department, that act will have been transferred to that department for that reason.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: So it is part of the set which goes with copyright, censorship—those issues.

Senator Brandis: Not censorship, because censorship is not an intellectual property issue. But copyright certainly is.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: But censorship went to Communications, didn't it?

Mr Moraitis: That is right. The branch went to Communications.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Do you have a new organisational structure?

Mr Moraitis: Not yet. We are just working through it. We are just finalising the MOG process now— machinery-of-government changes. Once that is bedded down, hopefully this week, we will proceed to an organisational chart that spells it out. But it is pretty straightforward. You take out the arts, which is a division; the Classification Branch; and some elements of copyright, which is essentially a section of a branch. So if you had the old organisational chart you could just cross those out.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Is that in the old annual report?

Mr Moraitis: It should be.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: It sounds strange to call it the old one; we got it less than a week ago.

Mr Moraitis: It is the new one.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Page 8 perhaps?

Mr Moraitis: That is more about programs rather than an org chart as such, but it gives you an idea of it. For example, under Civil Justice and Legal Services Group, which used to be David Fredericks's, you would take out Ministry for the Arts—that has moved out. Under the Civil Law Division, in the first box, one of the branches would be the Classification Branch, which is based in Sydney; that has moved. So inside that Civil Law Division headed by Matt Minogue there were a couple of branches; one of those—classification—has gone. Copyright was a section of a branch in the Civil Law Division as well. So a branch and a section from the first box, Civil Law Division, have gone to Communications; and the whole Ministry of the Arts, which is the fifth box, has moved to Communications as well. That is essentially the organisational changes. And there could be some consequential changes to do with corporate support staff which are incidental to that. I do not think we would be across that.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Could I have, on notice, a copy of the organisational chart once you finalise it.

Mr Moraitis: Yes, of course.

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

The Attorney-General's current organisational chart can be found online at <http://www.ag.gov.au/About/Documents/Attorney-GeneralsDepartmentOrganisationalChart.pdf>. A copy is available at Attachment A.