

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

Output 1.1

Question No. 20

Senator Evans asked the following question at the hearing on 13 February 2007:

- a) Has the Minister corresponded with the Exclusive Brethren?
- b) If so, on what dates
- c) what was the correspondence about
- d) is the correspondence available to the committee

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

- a) Yes.
- b) Letters to the Attorney-General dated 3 May 2005 and 23 February 2007.
- c) The 3 May 2005 letter followed a meeting with the Attorney-General on 18 April 2005 which discussed the Exclusive Brethren's submission provided in response to the discussion paper 'A New Approach to the Family Law System', which sought input from the community into the implementation of wide-ranging reforms to the family law system.

The letter of 23 February 2007 was a covering letter enclosing a series of papers: a brief overview of the Church, an account of its involvement in Australian politics, and one about Brethren schools. No response was required.

- d) Yes. The Exclusive Brethren have provided their consent for the correspondence to be made available to the Committee.