



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Access to Justice Division



09/29632

31 March 2010

Ms Julie Dennett
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on
Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Dennett

Additional Estimates February 2010, Attorney-General's Department—Question on Notice 141

Regarding the Additional Estimates hearing of 8 February 2010, Senator Boyce asked a question in writing relating to family dispute resolution practitioners. The response to Question on Notice 141 was tabled on Thursday, 25 March 2010. I am writing to provide an amended Departmental response to the Committee in relation to this matter, specifically part (b) of the question.

The amended response provides a clarification that all 1354 accredited family dispute resolution practitioners meet the criterion relating to qualifications and competency and are trained in domestic and family violence and family law environment. 1195 of these accredited practitioners completed their training through the subsidised training scheme.

The action officer for this matter is Megan Burrowes who can be contacted on 02 6141 4362.

Yours sincerely

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

Sub Program 1.1.1

Question No. 141

Senator Boyce asked the following question at the hearing on 8 February 2010:

By July 2009, family dispute resolution practitioners were required to have skills in domestic and family violence and family law environment.

- a) How many practitioners are there?
- b) How many have completed training and/or are already qualified?
- c) How much funding was allocated and how much has been spent?

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

- a) As of 8 February 2010, 1354 people have been accredited as family dispute resolution practitioners under the *Family Law (Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners) Regulations 2008*.
- b) All 1354 family dispute resolution practitioners meet the accreditation criterion relating to qualifications and competency and are trained in domestic and family violence and family law environment. 1195 of these practitioners completed their training through the subsidised training scheme.
- c) The subsidised training scheme was allocated \$3 million with a total cost of \$1,730,000.