

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA

**Question No. 38**

**Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 22 February 2011:**

**Senator BRANDIS**—An outline [prepared for the meeting of Family Court judges in Melbourne on Friday 18 February 2011]. Can we have a copy of that produced, please?

**Mr R Foster**—I think I would like to take that on notice because I am not certain that a meeting of the judges is not a matter for the judges. Perhaps the outcomes in the public interest might be of interest to someone outside, but I think a meeting for the judges is for the judges' discussion only. It may not be for the public record. I would like to take that on notice and have a discussion with the Chief Justice about what might or might not be able to be released.

**Senator BRANDIS**—I can understand your proper concern, but I am only interested in discussions about administrative arrangements in the future—administrative and structural issues which might comprise the Chief Justice's vision for the court.

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

There was a workshop of judges in Melbourne on Friday 18 February 2011. That workshop did not cover matters of an administrative or structural nature. The workshop was about case management matters related to the exercise of judicial power and incidental to the exercise of judicial power.