

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

Program 1.1

Question No. 52

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

1. When will post separation services know what changes to funding will apply from 1 July 2011?
2. What will be the cumulative impact in terms of reduced service capacity and job losses across post separation services? Do you have any modelling which demonstrates how this will occur?
3. Why increase funding to existing pathways networks while cutting funding to direct service delivery?

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

1. The Attorney-General's Department undertook extensive consultations with service providers on the implementation of the 2010 Budget measures during November and December 2010. The Government is currently considering feedback provided by service providers during those consultations. It is expected that a decision will be made and communicated to the sector in the near future.
2. The Department is actively working with service providers to ensure the impact on services will be minimal.
3. Increased funding was provided to Family Law Pathways Networks in 2010-11 for the continuation of the 25 existing networks and the establishment of 11 new networks. The new networks have alleviated the gaps in coverage which has allowed them to encompass all areas of Australia.

One of the key functions of the networks is to undertake collaboration functions that had previously been largely undertaken by service providers.