

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

**Program 1.1**

**Question No. 55**

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

**Senator BARNETT**—Could we move on to the Classification Board. Mr Wilkins, have you received feedback from the law enforcement agencies in the states and territories with respect to the call-in notices and, if so, could that be either tabled or provided to the committee?

**Mr Wilkins**—We do have some information, I think, on action taken. That will need to be edited to make sure that we are not divulging names and disclosing operational issues, so it might not be something I can give you today. We would also need to liaise with the state police in providing that information.

**Senator BARNETT**—I am sure the question is not a surprise. It comes up at every estimates. It would be appreciated if you could take that on notice and provide the committee with that information. Thank you.

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

Responsibility for enforcement of classification legislation is primarily a matter for State and Territory enforcement agencies. Where referrals of breaches of the National Classification Scheme are made to these agencies any action resulting from these referrals is the responsibility of the enforcement agency.

While there is no requirement that enforcement agencies advise the Attorney-General's Department of outcomes in these matters, Departmental officers are in regular contact with State and Territory enforcement officials, providing advice and assistance on classification enforcement matters. Since the last Senate Estimates hearing there has been no specific feedback to the Department in relation to individual call in notices.

The first Classification Enforcement Contacts Forum held in 2010 identified sharing of information about enforcement of classification laws across jurisdictions as the first step in improving compliance. Following discussions with States and Territories, on 10 February 2011 the Minister for Justice wrote to State and Territory Ministers responsible for enforcement agencies, asking that they compile information about enforcement action on classification matters in their jurisdictions up to the end of March 2011. This information is being prepared ahead of the next Classification Enforcement Forum scheduled for June 2011.