



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

**Family Law and
Legal Assistance Division**

9 June 2004

Mr Phillip Bailey
Acting Secretary
Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Bailey

Estimates hearing 24 May 2004

I am writing to correct an answer I gave at the Estimates hearing (Attorney-General's Department Output 1.3) on Monday 24 May.

At page 91 of the Hansard I said that the Family Relationships Services Program is one appropriation. While it is one program with the funding split between the Attorney-General's Department and the Department of Family and Community Services, each of those Departments has its own appropriation for the program.

At page 87 Senator Kirk asked me if it was correct that new funding agreements were being negotiated 'beginning on 1 July this year'. I responded that this was correct. I should clarify that answer by noting that negotiations for the new agreements have already commenced. The start date for the new agreements could be any time from 1 July 2004 depending on when agreement is reached with individual jurisdictions or legal aid commissions (as appropriate).

The current legal aid agreements are expressed to run to 30 June 2004 but there are provisions in those agreements to allow them to run on if new legal aid agreements are not in place by 1 July 2004.

Yours sincerely

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Family Law and Legal Assistance Division

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