

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Output 1.7**

**Question No. 35**

**Senator Moore asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2006:**

What creative ways are used to fulfil the role of counsellors for the Family Violence Prevention Centres?

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

All units are funded for one Sexual Assault Worker. Some units have an additional counsellor or male counsellor. Each unit has strategies to engage other service providers, and on occasions, when a unit may not have their own Sexual Assault Worker or counsellor the following strategies are key to the continuation of a high standard of service delivery.

1. Referrals

Workers in the units have a good knowledge of other services in the area so appropriate referrals can be made. They are also able to provide this information to the community through booklets, brochures or through community promotion. Workers also accompany the client at the referral agency if necessary.

2. Education of all workers in the Unit about sexual assault issues

All workers are required to have a level of awareness of the impact of sexual assault and family violence so they are able to respond appropriately to service users. This awareness training is important for all workers within the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services.

3. Networking to use local resources within area.

Units are required to be proactive in developing networks within the local area, including all services, agencies or groups that may be useful when working with clients eg Elders groups, police, schools, hospitals, community workers, counsellors and refuges.

4. Undertake Accredited Sexual Assault Training.

This accredited training is being provided to staff within the FVPLS units. This will provide the FVPLS units with increased options to utilise existing staff that hold other positions.