

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

Program 1.1

Question No. 19

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2010:

What steps does the Government now propose to take in relation to the restructure of the federal courts, and what is the time period relating to these steps?

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

Legislation to create the Military Court of Australia and restructure the Family Court was introduced into Parliament on 24 June 2010. The Bills have been referred to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee which is expected to report on 21 September 2010.

The Family Court of Australia, the Federal Magistrates Court, the Federal Court of Australia and the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia have been consulted on the legislation.

It is expected that the new Family Court structure will be in effect from 1 January 2011.