

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

Program 1.1

Question No. 86

Senator Siewert asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2010:

- a. What consultation did the Department undertake to evaluate any impact of the budget cut into the Family Relationships Services Program? With whom? What was the nature of the consultation?
- b. Were clients of the program surveyed? If not, why not?

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

- a. Evaluation of the impact of the budget measures for the FRSP was undertaken based on data provided by service providers. The new measures will not commence until 1 July 2011. The Attorney-General's Department will work with the Family Relationship Services sector over the next 12 months on details of implementation of these changes to minimise the impact on the delivery of services, including an analysis of the ability of individual Family Relationship Centres to recoup fees.
- b. Clients of the program were not surveyed, as data from service providers was considered sufficient.