

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

Output 1.1

Question No. 20

Senator Stott-Despoja asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:

Mediated outcomes are not necessarily sustainable or best for children. The Government has proposed a research project to examine the outcomes of judicial decisions and mediated outcomes.

a)What are the timelines and processes for this research?

b)Will the results be released to the public?

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

In its response to Recommendation 19 of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs *Every picture tells a story* Report the Government agreed to undertake a longitudinal research project that examines the outcomes of family law judicial decisions and also of other interventions such as counselling and mediation.

The Government, in its response on 8 December 2005 to Recommendation 14 of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs on the Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill 2005, agreed to include the impact of family violence and abuse in family law proceedings into this research.

The Department is currently preparing advice to Government on the processes and timing for this research. It is anticipated that the results of this research will be available publicly.