

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

Output 1.3

Question No. 34

Senator Carr asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2006:

- (a) What was the content of the human rights update paper in relation to development of the proposed Premises Standard which was noted by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General in July 2006?
- (b) Has SCAG received any further updates and, if so, what is their content?
- (c) What is the main consideration that is holding up the government making a decision on a Premises Standard?

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

- (a) It is not appropriate to provide details of the content of this paper which was prepared for the purpose of Government to Government communication in the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG). The content of SCAG papers is treated as confidential.
- (b) No new information has been provided.
- (c) It is a matter for the Government to decide whether to formulate Premises Standards and the content of any Standards. The Standard-making process involves the balancing of diverse interests and extensive consultation.

In drafting the Premises Standards, the Government is attempting to clarify the right to access to premises for people with disability without imposing prohibitive costs on industry. The proposed Premises Standards are technical in nature and attempt to provide certainty while also allowing flexibility.

The Government is currently considering the social and economic costs and benefits of the latest proposals.