

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

**Output 2.2**

**Question No. 4**

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

Is the unauthorised passing of a classified document, or verbally conveying its contents, a criminal matter?

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

There are criminal offences that could cover the unauthorised passing of a classified document, or verbally conveying its contents (including, for example, sections 70 and 79 of the *Crimes Act 1914* and section 142.2 of the *Criminal Code*). Whether or not particular conduct is covered by any relevant offence will always depend on the specific circumstances of each case.