

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA

**Question No. 44**

**Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2008:**

What further methods of stakeholder consultation and engagement are envisaged in the development and refinement of proposals for procedural reform?

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

The Federal Court will use a range of mechanisms to facilitate stakeholder consultation and engagement in relation to proposals for procedural reforms in the Court.

These include the use of:

- the regular meetings that are held between members of the Court's National Practice Committee and representatives of the Law Council of Australia.
- the regular user group meetings involving Judges and staff of a particular registry and representatives of the local legal profession – these meetings may be of a general nature or relate to a particular area of the Court's jurisdiction (such as Corporations, Taxation, Admiralty, Intellectual Property or Class Actions).
- seminars, conferences and workshops to discuss proposals for procedural reform, and
- targeted consultations with litigants, legal practitioners, academics and others with expertise or experience in relation to particular areas of potential reform.