

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

**Output All**

**Question No. 6**

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

How many reviews are currently being undertaken by the Department? Identify the reviews, including the topic of the review, the date of the report for the review and any other relevant particulars.

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

As at 20 October 2008, eight reviews were being undertaken by the Department.

Review of the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*

A committee comprising Mr Tony Blunn AO, Mr Ian Govey (Deputy Secretary in the Attorney-General's Department) and Professor John McMillan (Commonwealth Ombudsman) has been appointed by the Attorney-General to review the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*, as required by section 59 of that Act. The committee's report is due by 31 March 2009.

Review of customary law (bail and sentencing amendments)

The Department is reviewing the 2006 and 2007 amendments to Commonwealth and Northern Territory laws which limit consideration of customary law and cultural practice in bail and sentencing matters. It is anticipated the review will be completed in early February 2009.

The findings of the review will be provided to the Minister for Home Affairs for consideration. The Minister has indicated that he will share the information emerging from the review with the Northern Territory Attorney-General.

Review of CCTV components of the Safer Suburbs Plan

The Department has engaged the Australian Institute of Criminology to undertake a review into the impact of the Closed Circuit Television System components of a number of projects funded under the Safer Suburbs Plan. It is anticipated that it will conclude in December 2009.

Review of the current funding arrangements of the Family Court of Western Australia

The Review will advise on the workload, operating costs and resources of the Family Court of Western Australia to enable the Commonwealth and Western Australia Governments to make informed decisions about the future funding of the Court with the aim of ensuring that the Court has appropriate resources to deliver an efficient, effective and integrated family law service in the future. The Department has engaged an independent consultant (Mr Des Semple) to assist with the review.

The review has been delayed due to the election period and the forming of the new government in Western Australia. Discussions with the new Western Australian government are continuing and it is anticipated the review will conclude shortly.

### Review of the organisational structure of the Attorney-General's Department

The Review will examine the priorities of the Government to determine the best organisational structure for the Department to enable it to deliver these priorities and ensure high quality and well coordinated portfolio wide advice is provided to the Attorney-General and the Minister for Home Affairs.

An independent consultant, Mr Roger Beale AO, has been engaged to conduct the review with the assistance of the Department. Mr Beale is due to report by the end of 2008.

### Review of classification fees

The Review will examine the current fee scales for classification services. The review is being conducted by the Department and will involve consultation with the industry. It is expected to be finalised in April 2009.

### Statutory review of 2003 amendments to the *Copyright Act 1968*

The Review has considered the effectiveness of certain amendments contained within the *Copyright Amendment (Parallel Importation) Act 2003* (as required by clause 15 of Schedule 4 to that Act). The review is being conducted by the Department and has involved consultation with the industry. The report of the review is due to be presented to the Attorney-General in November 2008.

### Review of the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA)

The Review is considering the adequacy and appropriateness of the current management, administrative and operational arrangements for the KAVHA site on Norfolk Island to protect and promote the site in accordance with relevant guidelines. The review is due to be provided to the Minister for Home Affairs in January 2009.