

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
REFERENCE: EVIDENCE AMENDMENT BILL 2008

Questions on Notice

**Attorney-General's Department**

**Hansard** (7 August 2008, p. 10)

**Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 7 August 2008:**

**Senator BRANDIS**—Tell us about those discussions, please. You can start by telling us who were the participants in the discussions and when they took place. And if they were minuted or otherwise recorded, can I ask you on notice to produce to the committee a copy of those minutes or other records of the discussions?

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

Discussions on the differences in the definitions of de facto relationships in the two Bills took place between officers of the Administrative Law and Civil Procedure and Family Law Branches. They were part of the normal consultation processes undertaken in the development of legislation. We are not aware of any records of the discussion of this issue.

**Hansard** (7 August 2008 p. 18)

**Senator Crossin asked the following question at the hearing on 7 August 2008:**

**CHAIR**—And that is my question to you. If there is not a specific definition in the evidence bill, is a definition of the word 'couple' referenced or cross-referenced with the Acts Interpretation Act?

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

No, there is no definition of the word 'couple' in the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*, nor is the term referred to in that Act.