



Our reference: SJE
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Your reference: Sophie Dunstone
Date: 05 January 2016

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Ms Sophie Dunstone
Committee Secretary
Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Committee of Parliament
Parliament of Australia, Canberra
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Dear Ms Dunstone,

Inquiry into the Family Law Amendment (Financial Agreements and Other Measures) Bill 2015

I refer to your letter of 9 December 2015.

The Legal Services Commission of South Australia supports these proposed changes to the *Family Law Act 1975*.

The Commission was recently the recipient of a grant under the Federal Government's *Women's Safety Package* and has a long term commitment to measures that keep women and children safe from violence. The removal of provisions which cause interim family violence protection orders to expire after 21 days is welcomed.

The Commission supports amendments which assist families to resolve financial and maintenance disputes outside the courtroom, thereby reducing expense and the stress of a prolonged court case for the parties.

The Commission has no difficulty with the repeal of Section 116C regarding payments by legal aid bodies as current funding guidelines are more than adequate for determining an appropriate scale of fees.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Gabrielle Z Canny
Director