

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

Question No. AE16/021

Senator Madigan asked the following question at the hearing on 9 February 2016:

Senator MADIGAN: Does the Family Court have any information, if court orders were adhered to, on the welfare of those children consequent to court decisions? Do you do any follow-up to see what is happening?

Ms Filippello: In some matters, the court does make an order that the family consultant meet with the children to explain the orders and the reasons that the judge made those orders. But, unless the judge has made an order either requiring the family consultant to continue to maintain their relationship with the family or ensuring that the independent children's lawyer continues for a period of time rather than being discharged on the order, the court has very little further to do with that family unless there has been noncompliance with an order.

Senator MADIGAN: So there are no figures on whether court orders were adhered to?

Ms Filippello: We would have details in relation to applications for enforcement if those applications are brought. We certainly would have that detail.

Senator MADIGAN: Would you be able to supply that to the committee on notice?

Mr Foster: We can do that.

Ms Filippello: Yes, we can take it no notice.

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

When there is a contravention of court orders, a litigant may make an application to the court.

The following table shows the number of such applications filed in the Family Court of Australia.

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Family Court of Australia	Contravention application for "Orders affecting children"	241	248	198	204	210	226