

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

**Group: 2**

**Program: Other Agency**

**Question No. BE15/040**

**Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 27 and 28 May 2015:**

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Is the percentage of unrepresented litigants that appear in the Family Court and the Federal Circuit Court increasing?

Mr Foster: My experience is that it is not. It seems to have plateaued pretty much. As I said, it is around about a bit less than 50 per cent who are self-represented at some stage during the process. As accurate as our data is in this matter, it does not seem to be the case.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Are you able to break down what proportion of those unrepresented cases involved children?

Mr Foster: Some matters are both children and property, but again I can take that on notice, and we do have detailed statistics and we should be able to provide information for you. I do not have it with me; that is all.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: I understand that the number of cases involving children generally is at about 47 per cent, but I am curious as to what proportion of those are self-representation in that space as well.

Mr Foster: Sure.

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

Please see the response to question BE15/038.