

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

Question No. SBE15/102

Senator Collins asked the following written question from the hearing on 20 October 2015:

1. The Family Law (Fees) Amendment (2015 Measures No.1) Regulation 2015 (Cth) was made on 12 July with the family law fee increases to commence on 13 July. How was the fee increase implemented in such a short time frame?
2. What measures were taken in the Registries to explain the sudden fee increase to litigants?
3. What administrative costs were incurred to implement the fee increase?
4. Were extra staff employed to implement the changes both administratively and at a customer service level?

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

1. Changes to forms, brochures and websites were prepared over the weekend and uploaded to websites on 13 July.
2. The following measures were taken:
 - New fees posters were supplied to registries
 - client service advice was prepared, and
 - website messages were updated and information prepared for the enquiry centre.
3. Only in-house resources were used to implement the fee increase.
4. No.