

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

**Question No. 28**

**Senators Brandis and Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2009:**

In relation to Mr Semple's reports relating to the structure of family consultants in the Family Courts and registrars, provide the terms of reference and an estimated cost for the production of each report.

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

Terms of Reference for the review of Family Consultant's and Registrars is as follows:

*The review is to be conducted recognising the separate case management processes that exist for FCoA and FMC and require resolution irrespective of whether they operate as separate courts or separate divisions in the one court.*

*The review is to report to the Family Law Courts Board on the following:*

- 1. Review the current management structure and processes of Family Consultant and Registrar services and advise on the appropriate governance and management structure for the future provision of these services to the FCoA and FMC recognising their separate case management processes and procedures.*
- 2. Recommend the future quantum of Family Consultant and Registrar resources for future allocation to the FCoA and FMC on the proportion of the number of cases finalised by both courts.*
- 3. Propose management systems that ensure transparent and dedicated allocation of resources to both courts according to the number of case matters finalised.*
- 4. Propose the management templates and executive information management reports that accurately monitor case management outcomes according to the predetermined resource allocations.*

The estimated cost is \$114k in professional fees plus expenses (GST exclusive).