

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

Sub Program 1.1.1

Question No. 54

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 19 October 2009

With regard to the Family Court's Violence Review conducted by Mr Richard Chisholm;

- a) who was invited to make a submission,
- b) who made the submissions, and
- c) who was consulted at the various meetings Mr Chisholm had? Provide details of each of the meetings, including where and when they were held.

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

- a) The list of persons and organisations invited to make submissions is at **Attachment A**.
- b) The list of persons and organisations that have made submissions is at **Attachment B**.
- c) The list of the various meetings that occurred is at **Attachment C**.

Organisations and individuals who were invited to make submissions

Lobby groups & support services

1. Shared Parenting Council of Australia
2. Men's Rights Agency *
3. Lone Fathers Association Australia *
4. Australian Men's Congress *
5. No to Violence *
6. NSW Women's Refuge Movement Resource Centre *
7. Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria *
8. Dads in Distress
9. St Georges Domestic Violence Counselling Service *
10. CanFacs (Canberra Fathers and Children Service)
11. Immigration Advice and Rights Centre
12. Women's Family Law Support Service *
13. National Council of Single Mothers & their Children *

Legal profession

1. Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia *
2. ACT Law Society *
3. New South Wales Law Society *
4. Law Institute of Victoria *
5. The Law Society of Tasmania
6. The Law Society of South Australia
7. The Society of Western Australia
8. Law Society Northern Territory
9. Queensland Law Society
10. The Australian Bar Association
11. The Victorian Bar Council
12. The New South Wales Bar Association
13. The South Australian Bar Association
14. The Northern Territory Bar Association
15. Australian Capital Territory Bar Association
16. The Tasmanian Independent Bar Inc
17. Bar Association of Queensland
18. The Western Australian Bar Association
19. Women's Legal Services Australia *
20. Dobinson Davey Clifford Simpson

Family dispute resolution practitioners

1. Family Relationship Services members *
2. Family Relationships Advice Line *

Academics

Various academics *

Legal Aid Commissions

1. National Legal Aid *
2. Legal Aid Commission of New South Wales
3. Victoria Legal Aid
4. Legal Aid Queensland
5. Legal Services Commission of South Australia
6. Legal Aid Western Australia
7. Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania
8. Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission
9. Legal Aid ACT

Courts

1. Family Court of Australia *
2. Federal Magistrates Court *
3. Family Court of Western Australia
4. Family Court of New Zealand
5. Magistrates' Court of Victoria

Other entities

1. Family Law Council
2. Australian Institute of Family Studies
3. Australian Institute of Criminology *
4. Australian Law Reform Commission

Members of the public were also invited to make submissions.

* Organisations and individuals who provided submissions to the review.

Submissions received to the Family Courts Violence Review

In total, 99 submissions were received at the time this response was prepared.

Submissions from organisations

1. Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria
2. Australian Institute of Criminology
3. Australian Men's Congress
4. Community Partnership against Domestic and Family Violence
5. Council of Single Mothers and their Children
6. Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria
7. Information paper from the Hon Chief Justice Diana Bryant
8. Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia
9. Family Relationship Centre- Bundaberg
10. Family Relationship Services Australia
11. Federal Magistrates Court
12. Journey Family Lawyers
13. Kingsford Legal Centre
14. Law Institute of Victoria
15. The Law Society of the Australian Capital Territory
16. The Law Society of New South Wales
17. Lone Fathers Association Australia
18. Mayumarri Healing Centre
19. Mark and Sands Lawyers
20. Men's Rights Agency
21. National Abuse Free Contact Campaign
22. National Council for Children Post- Separation
23. National Council of Single Mothers and their Children
24. National Legal Aid
25. National Peak Body for Safety and Protection of Parents and Children
26. Non-Custodial Parents Party (Equal Parenting)
27. No to Violence Male Family Violence Prevention Association Inc.
28. NSW Women's Refuge Movement Working Party Inc.
29. Nuance Exchange Support
30. Protective Mothers Alliance
31. Relationship Australia (Victoria)
32. State Coroner Victoria
33. Victims of Crime Assistance League Inc. NSW
34. Safer Family Law Campaign
35. St George Domestic Violence Counselling Service
36. Sole Parents' Union
37. Women's Family Law Support Service
38. Women's Legal Service Australia
39. Women's Legal Service Brisbane
40. Women's Legal Service Victoria

Submissions from individuals

The Review provided that individuals making submissions are not identified unless the author consents. In addition, individuals will not be identified if publishing the content of the submission would breach section 121 of the *Family Law Act 1975* (where accounts of proceedings before the courts may not be published if they identify parties to the proceedings or persons otherwise connected to the proceedings or the parties). Submissions where the individual is not identified are referred to as 'private individuals'.

59 submissions were received from individuals.

52 were received from private individuals (5 of these were from personnel of the family law courts, on an in-confidence basis).

Submissions from individuals who can be identified:

1. Mr Earl Richards
2. Dr Tom Altobelli
3. Dr Zoe Rathus
4. Associate Professor Helen Rhoades
5. Dr Lesley Laing
6. Mr Paul Lodge, Senior Family Consultant
7. Dr Patricia Easteal

List of meetings with Professor Richard Chisholm, conducted for the Family Courts Violence Review

Organisation:	Meeting Date:	Meeting Location:
Attorney-General's Department	11 August 2009	Canberra
	22 October 2009	Canberra
Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration Family Violence Conference	1 October 2009	Brisbane
Australian Law Reform Commission	17 August 2009	Sydney
Australian Institute of Family Studies	18 August 2009	Canberra
	7 September 2009	Melbourne
Canfacs (Canberra Fathers and Children Service)	12 October 2009	Canberra
Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria (DVRCV)	8 September 2009	Melbourne
Family Court of Australia	31 August 2009	Sydney
	1 September 2009	Sydney
	8 September 2009	Melbourne
	29 September 2009	Teleconference
	13 October 2009	Canberra
Family Court of New Zealand	21 September	Teleconference
Family Court of Western Australia	15 September 2009	Canberra
	22 September 2009	Perth
Family Law Section, Law Council of Australia	16 September 2009	Canberra
Family Law System Reference Group	15 September 2009	Canberra
Family Relationship Centre – Sydney City	1 September 2009	Sydney
Family Relationship Centre – Perth City	23 September 2009	Perth
Family Transitions	7 September 2009	Melbourne
Federal Magistrates Court	7 September 2009	Melbourne
	1 October 2009	Brisbane
Freeman family	Selected by the family	Selected by the family
Marks and Sands Lawyers	22 September 2009	Perth
Legal Aid Western Australia	22 September 2009	Perth
Lone Fathers Association Australia	14 October 2009	Canberra

Magistrates Court of Victoria	8 September 2009	Melbourne
National Legal Aid, Family Law Working Group	30 September 2009	Brisbane
Roundtables with lawyers from the Australian Capital Territory	19 August 2009	Canberra
	13 October 2009	Canberra
Roundtable with the Family Court of Australia, the Federal Magistrates Court and officers of the Attorney-General's Department	22 October 2009	Canberra
Sydney Law School, University of Sydney	31 August 2009	Sydney
Victoria Legal Aid	7 September 2009	Melbourne
Women's Legal Services Australia	31 August 2009	Sydney
Women's Legal Services Brisbane	2 October 2009	Brisbane