



# JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S FAMILY LAW SYSTEM

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## Frequently asked questions – submissions

The following information sets out the committee's response to some frequently asked questions. If you have any other questions, please feel free to write to the committee at: [familylaw.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:familylaw.sen@aph.gov.au).

### **I want my submission to be public, why was it accepted as confidential?**

While the committee understands that submitters would like their submissions to be public, it is the committee's responsibility to make a decision as to whether or not to publish a submission. To assist submitters the committee has agreed to some [Protocols](#).

In accepting submissions and hearing evidence of your experience, the committee must consider the right to privacy, and the safety, of all parties involved in the family law process. Although submitters may request that their submission be published, under these protocols, the committee may decide that it be accepted as confidential. This does not mean that the confidential evidence will not form part of its inquiry. For further information, please see the committee's [Statement on Submissions](#).

### **What is the final date that I can make a submission?**

The due date for submissions was 18 December 2019.

However, the committee has and continues to provide extensions for individuals and organisations to lodge submissions up to 31 January 2020. You can request an extension by emailing: [familylaw.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:familylaw.sen@aph.gov.au)

### **How long is it going to take for my submission to be considered?**

The committee must read and discuss your submission at a meeting. As there are a large number of submissions this will take it some time (ranging from days to months).

The secretariat is unable to provide individual updates to submitters as to the status of their submission. The committee appreciates the patience of submitters on this matter.

### **How will I know when my submission has been considered?**

Once the committee has made decisions about accepting and publishing your submission, you will receive a formal acknowledgement advising you of the committee's decision. You should not give your submission to anyone or publish it before the committee makes a decision on whether to accept it.

### **Can I share my submission if the committee has accepted it as confidential?**

No. Your submission is protected by parliamentary privilege. Parliamentary privilege gives you certain protections in relation to the submission you gave the committee. However, you will not have this protection if you show other people your submission without the committee's agreement.

### **Can I ask the committee to reconsider its decision about my submission?**

Due to the volume of submissions the committee has decided that, except in specific circumstances, it will defer considering requests to review decisions in relation to submissions until after all submissions have been processed.

### **When are the public hearings?**

Information about public hearings will be available on the committee's website once the committee has finalised a public hearing program.

Please note that it is a committee decision on when and where to hold public hearings and who to invite to appear at a public hearing.