



JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S FAMILY LAW SYSTEM

Statement on submissions

The Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System has received a large number of submissions.

As the processing of submissions is not automated it will take some time for submissions to be considered and processed. The committee appreciates the patience of submitters on this matter.

Committee's Role

The committee's role is to gather and analyse evidence and to present a report, with recommendations, to the Parliament. Central to the committee's inquiry is that it receives personal stories and evidence to inform its report. All documents received are considered by the committee and form an important part of its deliberations.

Publication of submissions

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 the following protocols:

- Submitters may request that their submission be accepted by the committee as confidential.
- Any submission that identifies parties, makes allegations of domestic violence or contains adverse reflections will be accepted by the committee as confidential.
- Submitters may request that their submission be accepted as name withheld. The committee may publish these submissions provided that there are no adverse reflections against identified persons.

In accepting submissions and hearing evidence of your experience, the committee must consider the right to privacy 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.

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.

The committee has and continues to provide extensions for individuals and organisations to lodge submissions up to 31 January 2020.