



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Parliamentary inquiry into a better family law system to support and protect those affected by family violence**

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Issue date: 19 June 2017

## **Judges to face Parliamentary Committee on family violence and the family law system**

The [Federal Parliamentary Committee](#) examining family violence and the family law system will hold a public hearing tomorrow with the Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia, the Honourable Diana Bryant AO, and the Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia, Chief Judge John Pascoe AC CVO.

The Chair of the Committee, [Ms Sarah Henderson MP](#), explained that the Family Court and the Federal Circuit Court share federal jurisdiction for family law matters, an increasing number of which involve family violence.

“In recent years, there has been significant attention on the issue of fragmentation between federal family law and state courts and the impact of this division on those affected by family violence.

“The hearing will be an opportunity for the Committee to understand the complexities of the Courts’ work and discuss proposals to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our legal system. Our courts are meant to ensure the safety of vulnerable people – a requirement of which is timely resolution to matters before them.” Ms Henderson said.

The hearing will be webcast live (audio and visual) at [aph.gov.au/live](http://aph.gov.au/live). A recording of the hearing will be made available on the Inquiry webpage shortly following the hearing.

**Public hearing details: 4.45 pm to 6.15 pm, Tuesday 20 June 2017, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra**

Please be aware that the Committee is unable to intervene or provide advice in relation to individual circumstances. If you are in immediate danger, please contact 000. If you are experiencing distress or would like to speak with someone about your situation, the following support services are available:

- 1800RESPECT national helpline: 1800 737 732
- Women's Crisis Line: 1800 811 811
- Men's Referral Service: 1300 766 491
- Lifeline: 131 114
- Relationships Australia: 1300 364 277
- Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800

### **Media enquiries:**

Office of Ms Sarah Henderson MP, Committee Chair on (03) 5243 1444.



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**For background information:**

Parliamentary inquiry into a better family law system to support and protect those affected by family violence

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Interested members of the public may wish to track the committee via the website. Click on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.

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