



JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S FAMILY LAW SYSTEM

MEDIA RELEASE

The Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System tabled its third interim report and its final report in the House of Representatives today. These reports will be tabled in the Senate tomorrow—Tuesday 23 November 2021.

The committee was appointed by the Parliament in September 2019. Since that time, the committee has undertaken a comprehensive two-year inquiry into the family law and the child support systems. As part of this inquiry, the committee has received over 1700 submissions, held 13 in camera hearings and 13 public hearings. In the course of the inquiry, the committee has heard from many people who have direct experience of the family law system, advocacy groups and other organisations, academics and members of the legal profession.

The third interim report contains 19 recommendations on the Child Support Scheme, including: its accessibility; stakeholder consultation; the availability of data; child support debts and government guarantees; proving parentage; and the use of the scheme to perpetuate financial abuse. Furthermore, the report discusses and makes recommendations surrounding specific issues regarding the Child Support Scheme's assessment formula.

The final report notes the government actions and Family Court initiatives since March 2021 and makes some further recommendations supplementary to those made in the second and third interim reports.

The committee thanks all those who shared their personal experiences. For many, the sharing of their personal stories was a difficult and emotional experience. These stories provided great insight into the family law system and were integral to the committee's work.

The committee also thanks advocacy groups and other organisations, academics and members of the legal profession for their vital and informative input.

The third interim report can be accessed through the committee's website at: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Family_Law_System/FamilyLaw/Third_Interim_Report.

The final report can also be accessed through the committee's website at: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Family_Law_System/FamilyLaw/Final_Report.

The tabling of these reports concludes the work of the committee.

- 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732
- [Lifeline](#) on 13 11 14
- Men's Referral Service on 1300 766 491
- [MensLine](#) Australia on 1300 789 978
- Kids Help Line on 1800 551 800
- Relationships Australia on 1300 364 277
- Family Relationships Online on 1800 050 321
- Financial Counselling Australia on 1800 007 007
- Emergency services on 000 (triple zero) if you are in immediate danger

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