



FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA

CHAMBERS OF THE HON. JUSTICE WILLIAM ALSTERGREN
CHIEF JUSTICE

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11 December 2018

Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald
Chair, Legal and Constitutional
Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Macdonald

Invitation to Judges to comment on Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia Bill 2018 and Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2018

I refer to your letter dated 5 December 2018, inviting the Court's judges to attend the Committee's hearing scheduled for Wednesday, 12 December 2018 in Sydney.

I would like to thank the Committee for the invitation.

I confirm that I will not be attending as the head of jurisdiction. I am also reluctant to require any judge of this Court to attend the Committee's hearing as I do not think it is appropriate for sitting judges to comment on the proposed Bills or Government policy. This is obviously a personal view and I will not, of course, prevent any individual judge attending if they wish or from making a written submission.

In the meantime, I believe the Committee would be greatly assisted, from a practical perspective, by visiting and sitting at the back of the Court of three of the family law jurisdiction's busiest local registries: the Parramatta Registry, the Newcastle Registry and the Dandenong Registry.

These registries each process a high volume of family law cases on a daily basis. The Court would be delighted to facilitate a visit to these Courts.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Justice E.W. Alstergren
Chief Justice
Family Court of Australia
Chief Judge
Federal Circuit Court of Australia