

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Group: 2

Program: Other Agency

Question No. AE15/148

Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 24 February and 27 March 2015 hearings:

1. How many judges sit on the Family Court of Australia?
2. Are any other Family Court judges due to retire in the next 12 months?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1. As at 27 March 2015, the Family Court of Australia had 32 justices, however the Hon Justice Jennifer Coate has been permanently assigned to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Australia.

In addition, the Chief Judge of the Family Court of Western Australia, the Hon Justice Stephen Thackray, assists the Family Court of Australia on its Appeal Division.

As at 27 March 2015, there were two justices who had retired but had not yet been replaced.

2. No justices will reach statutory retirement age in the next 12 months.