

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA/FEDERAL CIRCUIT COURT

Question No. AE16/069

Senator Waters asked the following question at the hearing on 9 February 2016:

1. Can you confirm that the sole provider of transcripts for the Family Court is AusScript?
2. Can you comment on the relative costs of getting a day's transcript during a trial in the Family Court as opposed to, say, State Supreme Courts in their criminal jurisdictions, or in workers compensation?
3. Can you point to anything to explain that discrepancy (if any)?

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

1. Auscript Australasia Pty Ltd is currently contracted by the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia for the provision of transcripts for recordings.
2. The court is unable to provide a single cost of a Family Court or Federal Circuit Court transcript. Transcript costs can vary greatly depending on the number of words spoken in each hearing and the number of hearing days. Transcript costs under the current contract are broken up into same day, next day, three day, five day and ten day costings and are based on a 'per 100 word folio rate'. The courts are unable to comment on the 'relative costs of getting a day's transcript during a trial in the State Supreme Courts' as we are not privy to such information.
3. The courts are unable to comment as to whether there is a discrepancy.