

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

Program: Family Court of Australia

Question No. AE17/068

Senator Pratt asked the following question at the hearing on 28 February 2017:

1. Are the social support services that are currently available in the Family Court sufficient to meet client demands and to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the Courts?
2. Is additional funding needed to ensure that victims of family violence that have matters dealt with the Family Court have adequate access to legal representation and support services?

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

1. The Family Court itself does not provide social support services, but the Court will refer parties to those services that are appropriate and available. There are many factors that affect the availability of such services and issues of their funding and adequacy or availability are not matters for the Court.
2. Funding of legal representation and support services are not matters for the Court.