

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Family Court of Australia

Question No. BE17-186

Senator Pratt, Louise asked the following question on 28 August 2017:

Does the court believe the Parenting Management Hearings are an appropriate way to address the current backlogs in the family court?

Do you have a firm idea of how they are going to work?

Do you have any concerns about the proposal? Do you believe, for instance, that participation should be mandatory?

Do you believe that child custody matters, with their attendant complexities, are properly addressed in the courts before a judge?

Do you have concerns that participants in Parenting Management Hearings will not be allowed lawyers?

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

- 1-6. The development of the Parenting Management Hearings proposal is a policy matter for Government. The Court cannot comment on the operation and scope of the proposal which is still being established via legislation.