

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

Question No. SBE15/103

Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2015:

1. The Family Law (Fees) Amendment (2015 Measures No.1) Regulation 2015 (Cth) was disallowed by the Senate on 11 August. The family law fees in both the Family Court and the Federal Circuit Court were required to be immediately reinstated to the level prior to the Regulation being made. What measures were taken to administratively change the fees in the Family Court and the Federal Circuit Court from that date?
2. Did litigants continue to pay the increased fees after the 11 August?
3. Have litigants been reimbursed for any additional fees paid?
4. What administrative costs were incurred to reinstate the original family law fees in the Family Court and the Federal Circuit Court?
5. Will the Attorney-General be seeking to again attempt to increase family law fees in the Family Court and the Federal Circuit Court?

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

1. The following measures were taken:
 - Forms, brochures and websites were changed
 - Web messages and external communications were prepared
 - Messages for staff were prepared
 - Newsletter and bulletin corrections were made and implemented. The fees brochure was reprinted.
2. No
3. Not applicable as a result of the answer to question 2.
4. The following administrative costs were incurred:
 - Fees brochure reprinted: \$1,361.80
 - IT Staff performing additional work : \$11,321(Figure is calculated using the estimated hours taken, per level, to execute the work and using the top level increment)
5. This is a matter for Government.