

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

**Program 1.1**

**Question No. 73**

**Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 24/25 May 2010:**

For each of the three key shared parenting reports please provide a document summarising:

The consultants and those involved in preparing the documents

The cost of those consultancies

The terms of reference of those consultancies and

The titles, commission date, and terms of reference of each report.

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

A document with the requested information is attached.

Contractor/Researchers	Cost	Terms of reference	Title of report	Commission date
<p>Social Policy Research Centre at University of New South Wales</p> <p>Professor Ilan Katz, Dr Tony Eardley, Ms Megan Griffiths, Ms Samia Michail and Mr Gerry Redmond (Social Policy Research Centre at University of New South Wales), Ms Lixia Qu and Ms Ruth Weston (AIFS), and Associate Professor Judy Cashmore and Professor Patrick Parkinson (University of Sydney).</p>	<p>\$329,755 (GST inclusive)</p>	<p>The research questions specified in the contract are: The Service Provider is to undertake research that will outline the full range of factors that are positive for shared care and factors which are negative for shared care, with a view to assisting courts, family dispute resolution practitioners and parents in their decision making about the likelihood that a separating family's circumstances would mean that it would or would not be in the best interests of the child to have shared care. The Service Provider is to research:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Circumstances under which shared care arrangements work in the best interest of the child</li> <li>b. Circumstances under which shared care arrangements do not work in the best interest of the child</li> <li>c. Circumstances where shared care has not continued, and</li> <li>d. Whether and, if so, how these circumstances and outcomes for children differ depending on whether shared care arrangements are reached through a court or through Family Dispute Resolution, or outside both courts and Family Dispute Resolution</li> </ol>	<p>Shared Care Parenting Arrangements since the 2006 Family Law Reforms</p>	<p>12 May 2009</p>
<p>Family Transitions</p> <p>Dr Jennifer McIntosh (Family Transitions), Dr Margaret Kelaher (University of</p>	<p>\$189,200 (GST inclusive)</p>	<p>The research questions specified in the contract are: When separated parents share the physical, overnight care of young children:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What factors are directly associated with and/or moderate developmental outcomes for their</li> </ol>	<p>Post-separation living arrangements: patterns and developmental</p>	<p>29 Aug 2008</p>

<p>Melbourne) and Dr Bruce Smyth (Australian National University).</p>		<p>children?  b. How stable are patterns of physical care for young children post separation?  c. How are stability and change of care patterns associated with children's well-being?  d. Can models be derived of primary and secondary factors that inform separating parents, and their legal and dispute resolution practitioners on appropriate physical care arrangements for children and infants?</p>	<p>outcomes for infants and children</p>	
<p>Monash University   Professor Thea Brown (Monash University) and Associate Professor Dale Bagshaw (University of South Australia). Included in the research team are Dr Sarah Wendt (Uni of SA), Dr Elspeth McInnes (Uni of SA), Dr Alan Campbell (Uni of SA), Dr Beth Tinning (James Cook University), Dr Becky Batagol (Monash), Dr Adiva Sifris (Monash) and Associate Professor Charmaine Power (Flinders University).</p>	<p>\$330,000 (GST inclusive)</p>	<p>The research questions specified in the contract are:  The Service Provider is to research:  a. the effect that a history, or existence of violence within a relationship has on the decisions people make about accessing the courts and dispute resolution services  b. the effect that a history, or existence of violence within a relationship has on the decisions people make while they are at courts and at dispute resolution services, and  c. the effect that a history, or existence of violence within a relationship has on post separation parenting arrangements.  The research must include cases:  a. where parents have attended dispute resolution at a Family Relationship Centre or another Family Dispute Resolution provider;  b. where parents have accessed the court system, and  c. where parents have not accessed Family Dispute Resolution services or the court system.</p>	<p>Family Violence and Family law in Australia – the experiences and views of children and adults who separated post-1995 and post-2006</p>	<p>9 April 2009</p>