

# The State of Family Law in Australia & Predictions for the Future

Kirstie Colls Barry.Nilsson. Lawyers



## Major Inquiries & Reports into Family Law

#### ...completed in the last 5 years

- 1. Families with complex needs and the intersection of the family law and child protection systems: Interim and Final Reports (Family Law Council, <u>2015</u> & <u>2016</u>)
- 2. A better family law system to support and protect those affected by family violence (House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs, <u>2017</u>)
- 3. Direct cross-examination in family law matters: Incidence and context of direct cross-examination involving self-represented litigants (<u>AIFS</u>, 2018)
- 4. Children and young people in separated families: Family law system experiences and needs (AIFS, <u>2018</u>)
- 5. Family Law for the Future An Inquiry into the Family Law System (ALRC Report 125, <u>2019</u>)



## Major changes to the Family Law Act

#### ... in the last 20 years

- Family Law Legislation Amendment (Superannuation) <u>Act</u> 2001
- Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) <u>Act</u> 2006
- Family Law Amendment (De Facto Financial Matters and Other Measures) <u>Act</u> 2008

- Family Law Legislation Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Act 2011
- Family Law Amendment (Family Violence and Cross-examination of Parties) <u>Act</u> 2018
- Family Law Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) <u>Act</u> 2018

#### Where are we at in 2020?



## **Current Inquiries & Bills before Parliament**

- 1. Family Law (Self-Assessment) Bill 2019
- 2. Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System
- 3. Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia Bill 2019
- 4. Family Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provision) Bill 2019
- 5. Family Law Amendment (A Step Towards a Safer Family Law System) Bill 2020





## **Current Initiatives**

#### **PPP500**

**Discrete Property List** 

**Lighthouse Project** 





## **Kirstie Colls**

Special Counsel & Accredited Family Law Specialist Brisbane

Kirstie.colls@bnlaw.com.au + 61 7 3231 6133

