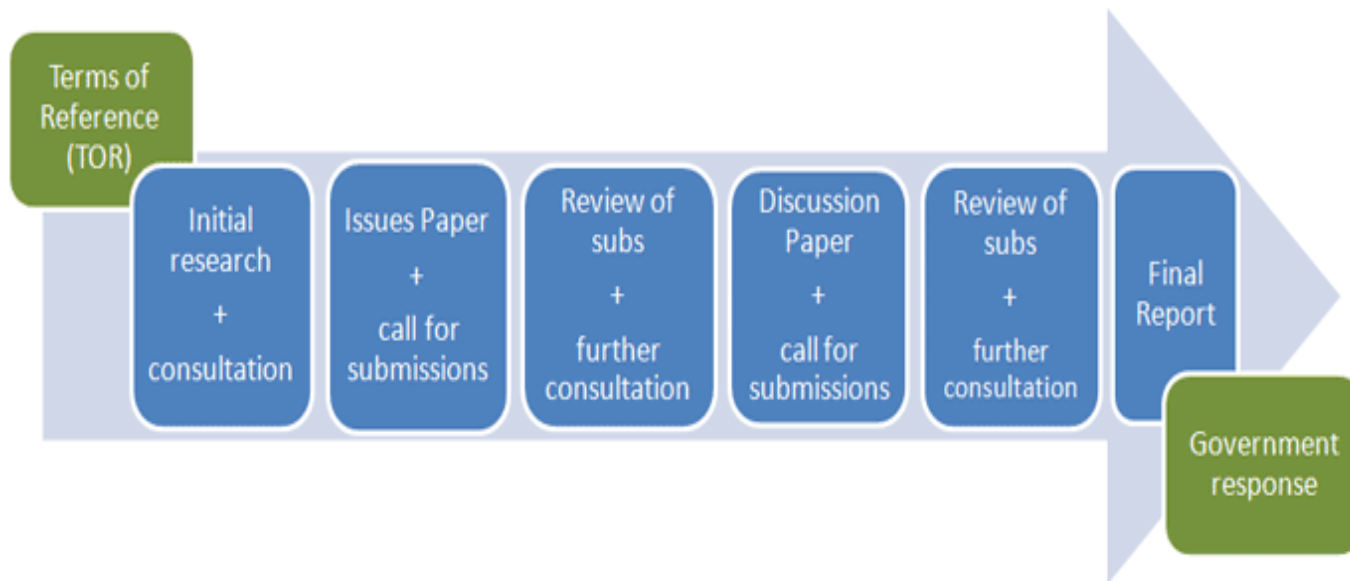


**AUSTRALIAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION
REVIEW OF THE FAMILY LAW SYSTEM**

- House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs – Every Picture Tells a Story (2003)
- Family Courts Violence Review (2009) -The Hon Richard Chisholm
- Family Law Council – Family Violence Report (2009)
- Australian Law Reform Commission and NSW Law Reform Commission – Family Violence: A National Legal Response (2010)
- Family Law Council – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Client Reports (2012)
- Productivity Commission – Access to Justice Report (2014)

- Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland – Not Now Not Ever Report (2015)
- Family Law Council – Families with Complex Needs Reports (2015 and 2016)
- COAG Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children (2016)
- Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence (2016)
- House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs (the SPLA Committee) (2017)

- Australian Law Reform Commission Family Law Review (2019)



Asks the ALRC to consider the appropriate role of the family law system in contemporary Australia and how it can be more responsive to the families who need its services.

Includes questions about the need for reform in relation to:

- the affordable and safe resolution of family law disputes;
- the substantive law governing decisions about parenting and property disputes;
- how the system relates to other services and systems; and
- its culture, structure and governance.

- whether the system's processes for resolving and adjudicating disputes are well adapted to meet the needs of separated families;
- how best to support the involvement of children in family law processes;
- the development of integrated services for families with complex needs;
- the competencies and skills required of family law system professionals and ensuring these are maintained; and
- the system's governance practices and accountability mechanisms.

- A public health approach focuses on preventing health problems in a way that extends better care and safety to entire populations rather than individuals (WHO, 2002)
- An approach that aims to prevent problems from occurring in the first place, to quickly respond to problems if they do occur, and to minimise any long-term effects and prevent reoccurrence.
- A public health approach comprises three levels of intervention: primary, secondary and tertiary.

- Education, awareness and information: strategies at the primary level
- Simpler, clearer legislation
- Integrated pathways for advice and support: Family Assistance and Support Services, Families Hubs, FRC's.
- Enhanced family dispute resolution
- Courts: risk assessment, co-location of state/federal courts, post-order support, jurisdictional boundary issues
- Participation of children and young people
- Strengthening governance

“A strong theme in the submissions and consultations for this Inquiry is that the family law system can no longer operate in isolation from state and territory systems and courts, and that it is time for the family law system to work in partnership with these other parts of the broader justice system”

Pre-separation problems	FDR / mediation (%)		Lawyer (%)		Court (%)	
	2012	2014	2012	2014	2012	2014
Alcohol or drug use	22.4	27.5	26.6	29.5	27.5	41.6*
Mental health	40.5	45.8	40.5	50.5 *	55.4	59.3
Gambling	6.3	8.7	6.5	6.8	6.1	12.0
Internet or social media	27.5	26.2	26.3	33.1	28.0	31.2
Pornography use	9.3	13.0	12.7	12.7	13.9	15.2
Emotional abuse	72.2	73.7	79.9	86.1	92.6	85.3*
Physical violence	33.0	26.6*	33.7	38.9	49.7	53.7
4+ issues	18.7	21.1	23.0	26.8	28.5	38.1
Mean no. of issues	2.1	2.2*	2.3	2.6	2.7	3.0
Current safety concerns	22.6	25.6	29.3	33.8	41.7	46.4
No. of participants	439	453	322	282	177	145

AIFS 2015