

Submission from Family Court staff member

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To FamilyJusticeReforms
Cc
Subject Submission from Family Court staff member

 [image001.png](#) (20 KB [HTML](#))

Thank you for the opportunity to make a very brief submission to this important piece of work.

In my opinion:

1. FDR (or counselling) and PTS should be maintained and strengthened and better-promoted, but should lose the compulsory element for applications to the Family Court.
2. Lawyers should be allowed to act from the beginning – ultimately this speeds matters up for families as lawyers, for the most part, are able to better navigate the Court process. It should also eliminate the odd unscrupulous lawyer using the Without Notice process in order to act.
3. Case tracks could remain as a useful tool.
4. I think the broader approach to child safety assessment is working well.
5. Lawyer for Child system here is working well and they have proved to be great advocates for the children.
6. We have too few specialist report writers to call on and this can slow a family's case down by several months while reports are waited on. Standard brief is fine, it's the speed of the reports being filed that is the issue.
7. CCOs are working okay. The speed counsel can inform the court about legal aid applications could be addressed.

Nga mihi nui,

s 9(2)(a)