



## FEDERAL CIRCUIT COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Federal Circuit Court of Australia  
Commonwealth Law Courts  
305 William Street  
Melbourne Vic 3000

Telephone: (03) 8600 4450  
Facsimile: (03) 8600 4445

24 October 2017

Mr Watt

(sent by email: [foi+request-4134-a72a3540@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-4134-a72a3540@righttoknow.org.au))

Dear Mr Watt

### **Freedom of Information request**

I refer to your below emailed Freedom of Information (FOI) request in which you ask for supply of Family Court Consultants in the Wollongong area, and their publicly listed contact details. You go on to refer to Regulation 7 of the Family Law Regulations 1984. Accordingly my response is confined to those Family Consultants appointed pursuant to Regulation 7 who undertake work in the Wollongong area. By way of background I confirm that the work of Family Consultant falls under the responsibility of the Courts Child Dispute Services (CDS) area which offers expert clinical services that provide assessments and advice to judges of the Family Court and Federal Circuit Court of Australia. CDS comprises around 80 internal Family Consultants and a number of external (regulation 7) consultants in each state and territory (excluding Western Australia).

Family consultants are psychologists and/or social workers who specialise in child and family issues after separation and divorce. More information on the role of Family Consultants (including Regulation 7 appointees) can be found on the Court's website:-

<http://www.familycourt.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/fcoaweb/reports-and-publications/publications/child+dispute+services/family-consultants>

### **Authority**

I am authorised under section 23 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to make decisions on behalf of the Federal Circuit Court in relation to an FOI request.

### **Scope of request**

In your email you state:-

*Under Regulation 7 of the Family Law Regulations 1984, the Federal Circuit Court and the Family Court of Australia appoint family consultants. Please supply a list of Family Court Consultants in the Wollongong area, and their publicly listed contact details.*

Accordingly, I have confined my response to those Family Consultants appointed pursuant to Regulation 7 who undertake work in the Wollongong area.

## Decision

Although the Federal Circuit Court is a 'prescribed authority' under the FOI Act, this Act only applies to documents of the Court 'of an administrative nature'. The names of persons who are engaged by the Court pursuant to Regulation 7 is one I consider falls within the term 'matters of an administrative nature' as it pertains to the management and administration of resources of the Court.

Accordingly I have set out a list of those persons currently engaged to undertake work pursuant to Regulation 7 of the Family Law Regulations in the Wollongong area. Each have their 'publicly listed contact details' available on their website details which you can obtain via a websearch.

Dr Anne Hollingworth  
Linda Campbell (while Sydney based also undertakes some work in the Wollongong area)  
Dr Lucia Vardanega (while Sydney based also undertakes some work in the Wollongong area)

The Court is awaiting the appointment of another Regulation 7 provider who will, when appointed, be available to undertake work in the Wollongong area

Yours sincerely



**Adele Byrne - Deputy Principal Registrar**  
Federal Circuit Court of Australia