



INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AND INFORMATION SHEET – INDIVIDUALS

The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) has been commissioned to undertake an Evaluation of the Small Claims Property Pilot. The Pilot, which is also referred to as the Priority Property Pools under \$500,000 (PPP500), is a new court-based model for small value property matters (up to \$500,000 including superannuation).

As part of this evaluation, we are conducting interviews with people whose matters have concluded under the Pilot and I would like to invite you to participate in a telephone interview with a member of the research team.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies does not know your name or contact details and will not know anything about you unless you choose to participate in this research.

Interviews will be conducted at the conclusion of matters throughout 2020 and 2021.

An information sheet about this study is included with this letter. It contains more information about the research and about how we will protect your privacy.

Please contact the research team if you would like to take part in this important study, or if you would like more information.

Phone: 1800 720 142

Email: familylawevaluation@aifs.gov.au

Thank you and we hope you will take part in this important study.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rae Kaspiew
Team Leader



Evaluation of the Priority Property Pools under \$500,000 (PPP500) (Small Claims Property Pilot)

Information sheet for interviews with parties

The Australian Institute of Family Studies has been commissioned by the Australian Attorney General's Department to undertake an evaluation of the Small Claims Property Pilot. The Pilot, which is also referred to as the Priority Property Pools under \$500,000 (PPP500), is a new court-based model for small value property matters (up to \$500,000 including superannuation).

The Australian Institute of Family Studies invites you to participate in an interview about your experiences with the Pilot.

An overview of the Evaluation project

The Evaluation involves multiple studies, including studies based on information collected from both professionals and litigating parties involved in the Pilot. The Evaluation will assess how the Pilot is being implemented and the extent to which it meets the needs of the parties participating in the Pilot processes.

The Evaluation will be implemented progressively throughout 2020-2021.

Aims of the interview

The purpose of the interviews is to gain information about the operation of the Pilot from the perspective of people who have used these services. Participation in an interview will involve responding to a range of open-ended questions, including on such topics as your experiences with the Pilot.

Interviews will take approximately 45-60 minutes and will be conducted by telephone. The interview can be arranged at a time that is convenient for you. As a thank you, we will give you a \$30 supermarket voucher.

Your privacy and safety

We take your privacy and personal security very seriously, and safeguards are in place to protect it.

Participation in this research is confidential and completely voluntary. Your decision to participate will make no difference to any current or future contact you might have with family law services or the courts.

Participants are free to stop the interview at any time, to not answer any questions, and you can request that we not use any information we have collected from the interview up to one week after the interview, after which the data will be de-identified. Your interview data will be de-identified by removing any details identifying you from the transcript of interview.

Data collected in this research will be held securely in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). You may access our privacy policy at <https://aifs.gov.au/aifs-privacy-policy>

With your consent, interviews will be audio-recorded and all recordings, transcripts, and written responses will be kept in a secure place. Only authorised members of the research team will have access to them. At the



conclusion of the project, de-identified transcripts will be retained and managed at AIFS. Our project report will only include de-identified interview data and any information that you provide will be treated confidentially within the limits of the law.

It is important that you know there is a limit to confidentiality. For example, if you tell us about any unreported current illegal activity, unreported abuse, or disclose something that makes us concerned for your safety or the safety of another person, then we may be obliged to pass this information onto the relevant authorities. There is also a small chance that if there are ongoing legal proceedings, a subpoena could be issued during the period of up to two weeks after your interview and before your data is deidentified. However, we confirm that when your data is de-identified, any details identifying you will be removed from the transcript of interview and your original transcript and recording will be destroyed so that your interview data cannot be reidentified or provided on subpoena. We also confirm that your participation in this interview is kept confidential and the research team would not tell anyone that you have been interviewed.

Contacts

Please contact the research team to arrange an interview if you are interested to help with this important study on 1800 720 142 or by email to: familylawevaluation@aifs.gov.au.

If you would like any more information please visit our project website at <https://aifs.gov.au/projects/evaluation-small-claims-property-pilot>.

The AIFS Ethics Committee has reviewed this research. Concerns relating to the project ethics may be directed to the AIFS Ethics Committee Secretariat via ethics-secretariat@aifs.gov.au or (03) 9214 7888.

About the Australian Institute of Family Studies

The Australian Institute of Family Studies is based in Melbourne. It is an independent statutory agency, established by the Commonwealth Government in 1980 and aims to help in the development of better policies for the future of Australian families.

More detailed information about the Institute can be obtained from our website: www.aifs.gov.au.

Getting help

We are unable to provide advice or to assist with specific concerns in relation to individual matters.

The **Family Relationship Advice Line** provides information about family relationship issues and parenting arrangements after separation. Phone 1800 050 321 or www.familyrelationships.gov.au.

Please contact the **National Sexual Assault Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service** for 24/7 information or support about domestic and family violence. Phone 1800 737 732 (1800 Respect) or www.1800respect.org.au.

Call **000** if you are worried about your safety, or the safety of another person.