



Australian
Bar Association

The ABA acknowledges the relationship between the land on which it and its members work and the First Nations' peoples of Australia

Media release

Statement by the President of the Australian Bar Association, Matthew Howard SC

13 January 2021

The Australian Bar Association (ABA) joins with the Law Council of Australia in rejecting the claim reported by Fairfax Media on 12 and 13 January 2021 that 'the Family Court of Australia has many corruption issues' including 'corrupt' judges.

"The ABA has the highest respect for the judges of the Family Court of Australia and for their independence and integrity," Mr Howard SC said.

"More Australians have contact with the family law system and courts than perhaps any other part of our justice system. It is important that the Australian community has and can have confidence in these courts, the hard-working judges who serve in them and the justice process more generally.

"The reported comments were baseless, inappropriate and undermining of the courts administering the judicial system.

"As the President of the Law Council of Australia, Dr Jacoba Brasch QC noted, the judges of the courts including the Family Court of Australia and Federal Circuit Court of Australia perform their work in a 'difficult, high-pressure environment that carries the risk of physical danger to themselves and their families' and are 'accountable for their decisions through processes including appeals and the Family Court's and Federal Circuit Court's Judicial Complaints Procedures'.

The Courts of Australia are open to the public and their judgments can be critically scrutinised but Mr Howard said "There is no place for unfounded claims about the integrity of the country's judges."

About the ABA

The Australian Bar Association is the peak body representing nearly 6,000 barristers throughout Australia. Established in 1963, the ABA is committed to serving, promoting and representing its members, as well as advocating for fair and equal justice for all.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES: media@austbar.asn.au