

Administrative Child Support Assessments in an International environment

Below is a draft outline of the proposed presentation to be presented by the Australian representative at the Heidelberg International Conference from March 5th to 8th, 2013.

It is intended to be a Powerpoint presentation with the topic for each page outlined below:

1. Brief outline of Australian Child Support Scheme
 - Background and purpose of the Scheme
 - Who administers the Scheme
 2. Brief outline of how an Australian administrative assessment is made
 - Overview of formula (components used to arrive at assessed rate)
 - How formula is applied (application of child support periods etc)
 3. Administrative modifications that can be made to Australian assessments
 - Examples of common modifications that may occur
 - How an administrative assessment can reflect changes to customer circumstances
 4. Benefits of Administrative Assessments
 - Flexibility for customers, responsive to changing circumstances
 - Reduced timeframes and cost in comparison to judicial process
 5. Australia's International arrangements - background
 - Overview of how International cases were managed prior to introduction of International Legislation on 1 July 2000
 6. Australia's International arrangements since 1 July 2000
 - What happens to international cases currently
 - Working with reciprocating jurisdictions
 7. Australia's International Arrangements and Treaties
 - List of Australia's international relationships and the associated benefits
 8. Challenges (from an Australian perspective) of Australian administrative assessments overseas
 - General overview of current issues faced by Australia in having their administrative assessments recognised and enforced overseas.
- The following pages will provide examples of issues faced recognising administrative assessments and explain how the 2007 Hague may offer improvements.*
9. Recognition and enforcement of Administrative Assessments
 - Administrative Assessment not being afforded equal recognition to an order obtained via a judicial process

- Final orders being sought overseas may not match the rate set by the administrative assessment
- Hague 2007 - Definition of an Administrative Authority recognised as having equal status to that of a Judicial authority

10. Obtaining income information

- Difficulties obtaining income information to enable accurate assessments
- Hague 2007 - Greater emphasis on international cooperation may assist in locating customers and/or obtaining income information

11. Periodic updates to Administrative Assessments

- Application of new child support periods every 15 months
- Hague 2007 - Inclusion of detailed Country profiles may provide increased understanding and awareness of Australian administrative assessments (although will not resolve issue)

12. Modifications to Administrative Assessments

- Customer requests to update assessments to reflect changes in circumstances
- Hague 2007 - Inclusion of detailed Country profiles, and greater emphasis on International cooperation, may provide increased awareness and acknowledgement of modifications (although will not resolve issue)

13. Exchange rate fluctuations

- Exchange rate set at time of Registration / Transmittal
- Fluctuations in exchange rates result in incorrect amounts being transferred
- Hague 2007 - Greater emphasis on International cooperation may provide opportunities to review transmittal processes between jurisdictions.

14. Summary of benefits (to Australia) of the 2007 Hague Convention

- Country profile will assist to increase awareness of country systems and procedures
- Definition of an Administrative Authority given equal status to that of a Judicial authority
- Increased recognition of Australian administrative assessments may lead to an improved collection rate on cases transmitted to other jurisdictions

15. Closing Statement

- Child Support Program Australia commitment to working with international countries to achieve positive outcomes for children