

22/6/23

Submission to: **The Secretary of the Legal & Constitutional Affairs Committee**
regarding the **Senate Inquiry into the Family Law Amendment Bill 2023**

Dear Senators,

RE: Please reject proposed amendments to Family Law Act

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to the Family Law Act.

Children need meaningful care and relationship (which necessarily includes significant time spent) with both parents in order to develop a strong, healthy sense of identity. Children should be able to enjoy the love, care and attention of both parents. The proposed changes will remove this as a necessity in negotiations regarding child care and custody by separated parents.

Children are people too, and should not be used as pawns or prizes in fights between parents. Fights between parents should stay between parents. Children should be able to see their parents treat each other with civility. Both parents need to be able to have input into decisions which affect their child such as parenting style, choice of school, religious values etc.

Removing one parent, most often fathers, from a child's life will hinder the development of the child's sense of identity which we know is a big factor in a child's success in life. Children need to know that they belong in a wider family community of parents, siblings, grandparents.

With government, education institutions, counsellors and similar crying out about the crisis in wellbeing due to identity issues, one wonders why the government seeks to roll back Family Law considerations which have helped alleviate this. Children with a poor sense of identity are easy targets for activists and groomers.

The best interest of kids means they have meaningful relationships with both parents. Please REJECT the proposed amendments to the Family Law Act.

Yours faithfully

Cecilia Ford