

April 28 2011

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Committee

We are writing to express our support for the changes to the Family Law Act proposed in the draft Family Law Amendment (Family Violence) Bill 2011. We strongly support the Federal Government's moves to provide better protections for people who have experienced family violence within the family law system and believe that the proposed amendments are essential to place safety and protection of children and family members at the forefront of the Family Law Act.

Far too many children have died as a result of Family Court orders and actions, since 1996. A list of these follows, and I urge the committee to consider the probability that these children would be living had contacts with possibly violent parents been enforced by the law.

Conclusion

We urge you and the Federal Government to act in response to the evidence-based research that has been presented to the Federal Attorney General, and to honour the promises that have been made to address the serious problem of family violence in the family law system. We strongly recommend that you pass this Bill expeditiously with our suggested amendments.

Yours sincerely

Ms R. Evans