

The Chairman

The Joint Parliamentary Committee into Family Law Reform

Canberra

Dear Mr. Andrews,

I only want to talk about item A - which is the messy domestic violence system. I suggest that you recommend for COAG

1. A uniform national and law on domestic violence
2. No retaliation orders against women (already in Queensland and now Victoria)
3. Automatic name suppression so that the likes of The Daily Mail cant ruin people's lives and undermine S 121 FLA 1975
4. No police records unless the person is criminally liable for hitting their spouse. Category 2 to be called "Intervention Orders", not "violence".
5. A requirement for Magistrates to hold a proper interim hearing (ie 2 hours not 2 minutes ).

This would take away much of the pressure Magistrates are causing on the family law system. Also, the people who support Pauline Hanson and are disgruntled would get a fair go- these 2 minute hearings were always bound to cause controversy. Thirdly, it would mean people take family violence seriously because there is a lot of support for the view it's just a lawyers parlour game- not right but many people do hold that view.

Thank you.

Regards

Jim Skeats