

**From:**  
**To:** [Legal and Constitutional, Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Cc:** Tuesday, 15 August 2023 4:31:05 PM  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**  
**Attachments:**

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Dear

I write on behalf of Dads4Kids.

The question we have taken on notice is as follows, followed by the answer to this.

***Senator Scarr: Do any of your members have experience with independent children's lawyers and any concerns about how the system has worked at the moment?***

**Answer: Research has highlighted concerns surrounding the lack of meaningful direct contact with children and young people by the ICL, to be a significant hindrance to Australia's ability to commit to their obligations specifically under Articles 9 and 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; whereby every child/young people has the right to participate in proceedings relevant to their care and to make their views known and apparent in administrative and/or judicial proceedings. This requires for greater advocacy of the views of the child and integration of their views into family reports and parenting orders, which is currently not apparent with the lack of meaningful contact between the ICL and children/young people.**

Thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Sheneli Meneripitiyage Dona

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**Dads 4 Kids**

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