

Family Law Legislation Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2011 [Provisions]

I am writing to express my support for the changes to the Family Law Act proposed in the draft Family Law Legislation Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2011.

I am a Poppy to 16 children, and a Dad to 6 children and 3 stepchildren.

I, as do the Men my wife and I call our friends, grew up with respect for our mothers and sisters, enforced by our fathers.

We believe young children belong primarily with their Mothers, that the role of a mother in a babies and childs life is the most important bond that child will ever have.

The bond my 12 year old son has with his mum is closer than what he has with me.

Rather than feeling threatened by this, I know he will never grow up to hit or abuse a woman or child.

Of that I am most proud of.

Children are being torn apart by child abuse, perpetrated by a minority of violent abusive men using the current Family Court System to abuse their children and to abuse their former partners.

I admit and recognise that men, a **minority** of all men thankfully, are the primary perpetrators of Domestic Violence and Child abuse.

Therefore I Strongly Support-

- * Prioritising family violence when considering what is in the best interests of the child

- * Removing the friendly parent provision

- * Taking children's rights into account – a child has the right to live and be cared for in a safe environment free from Sexual, Physical, Drug and Alcohol abuse, yet they will

not be granted this right until AFTER they are severely physically harmed while being in the

unsafe environment.

- * A broader definition and understanding of all kinds of Child Abuse.

Further changes that are needed

I believe that there are a number of changes needed immediately that have not been addressed in the Bill.

I urge you to consider amendments to:

- * The presumption of equal shared parental responsibility.
- * The concept of equal shared parental responsibility.
- * The link between equal shared parental responsibility and equal time/substantial and significant time arrangements.

The current 'Equal Shared Parental Responsibility', that has become in practice 'Equal Shared Time' is I believe damaging to Children.

In conclusion, I urge the Federal Government to act now in response to the evidence-based research the Federal Government commissioned in the past 24 months and the promises the Government has made to address the serious problem of Family Violence in the Family Law System.

I strongly recommend the Federal Government pass this Bill expeditiously with my suggested amendments. Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely
Allan Lello,