

Nellie Fennell

2nd August, 2002

The Secretary
Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Parliament of Australia
House of Representatives
CANBERRA

<mailto:%20laca@aph.gov.au>

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please accept my submission as follows:-

SUBMISSION ON CRIME IN SOCIETY – CHILD ABUSE

The ignoring of the CRIME of child abuse within Australia by the Federal Government is the worst kind of neglect of the most vulnerable members in our Societies.

The Federal Government is responsible for the operation of the Federal Family Court of Australia where child abuse is ignored as a Crime. One Judge I witnessed during a case before the Family Court said the only kind of child abuse he recognised was in not allowing a child Contact to both parents. The Family Court is not there to address other forms of abuse.

Abuse of children in Federal Detention Centres has been recognised by the International Community through the United Nations. There are many of us who are now approaching the United Nations for them to investigate how our Government is neglecting our own children and allowing abuses to occur while they do nothing. If our Federal Government does not care about children who will be the future of this Country then, how can any new children arriving from overseas expect to be placed in safe environments.

This Government has also ignored the widespread abuses of children within our Churches Australia wide, and the Government has given us a Governor General who has a history of ignoring abuses of children when he was in a position to help them.

Until our children can live in a safe Country then I feel nothing but shame in being an Australian Citizen and I will work toward the changes that are necessary.

In 1997 the Australian Law Reform Association produced Report 84, Seen and Heard, Priority for Children in which they detailed the changes necessary to give children a better chance of a fair hearing in the Federal and State Courts. Nothing has been done to improve the situation and carry out any of reforms that were recommended. It appears our children are not worth the effort or the money.

We need a ROYAL COMMISSION INTO CHILD ABUSE IN AUSTRALIA. We need to know the truth about why so many in positions of authority are failing to protect our children. It should not be too much to ask that money be spent on our children when the Government seems more than willing to spend millions on supporting projects that President Bush in America considers will be good for America.

Yours Sincerely

Nellie Fennell