

CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTRE LTD.

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Ken Ticehurst
Federal Liberal MP
Dobell
PO BOX 407
The Entrance, 2261
6th August, 2003

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
Submission No:.....	820
Date Received:.....	13-08-03
Secretary:.....	

Dear Mr Ticehurst,

LEGAL PRESUMPTION OF JOINT RESIDENCE

The Central Coast Women's Health Centre volunteers and employees are opposed to the presumption of joint residence proposed by the government.

As an organisation run for and by women, we daily come into contact with women whose lives have been altered through domestic violence. The proposed changes of joint residency could see children forced to reside with violent fathers and women having to maintain contact with a violent ex-partner.

In our society, women are still the primary carers of children. The 50/50 joint residence proposal does not reflect wider societal systems.

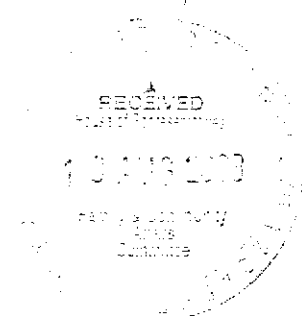
The *Family Law Act* states that the children's wishes, the capacity of the parent to provide for the child and maintaining children in a settled non violent environment must be considered. The proposed joint residence disregards these factors.

For these reasons, the Central Coast Women's Health Centres oppose a legal presumption of joint residence.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Marco
Chair
Board of Management
Central Coast Women's Health Centre Inc.



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