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The Committee
Family Law Inquiry

After looking through some of the internet publications of submissions I wish to submit the following:

As a practicing general practitioner I see about ten thousand patients a year. These are all types young and old, good and bad, victims and perpetrators, normal and abnormal... a good mixed representation of our population. After twenty years of clinical practice I have seen much and I believe most fathers and mothers are inherently good. Unfortunately the current practice of Family Law tends to demonise one parent [usually the father] so that a judgement can be made.

A number of special interest groups such as those dealing with domestic violence and professionals such as social workers have made submissions but they deal with a very confined and unfortunate group of the population, a narrow spectrum as opposed to the broad spectrum a general practitioner sees. They deal with a selected population where fathers and mothers are not often good. The current practice of judging one parent [usually the father] as bad suits these organizations and social workers.

The Family Law Act is for the broad spectrum of the population. Divorce is sadly a normal occurrence in our society now and the Family Law Act must cater for normal people.

Criminal law is for the perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse. However these special interest groups are trying to use the Family Law Act as a means of dealing with a narrow band of evil doers who should be dealt with by criminal law.

To make all children suffer because of a violent abusive group is wrong. It is analogous to curbing crime with curfews, not allowing anyone on the street because some people are muggers. Why should all children only see their fathers only once a fortnight because some fathers abuse their ex wives?

The only just arrangement for a normal population is to assume both parents are good and for children to have the opportunity to spend equal time with both parents.

