

The New Family Law System. It's time to focus on our kids.

Relationships end. Parenting doesn't.

All children have a right to grow up with the love, support and guidance of both their parents and both parents have a responsibility to raise their children.

That's why the Government has introduced the biggest changes to the Family Law system in 30 years.

The changes are about putting children's best interests first.

From July this year, the law will take the view that parenting is a responsibility which should be shared, as long as this is safe and in the best interests of the children.

The changes are wide ranging and include the following examples:

- In most cases, parents will need to consult and agree on major issues affecting children, such as health and schooling.
- Where both parents share responsibility, consideration will be given to the children spending equal, or at least substantial time with both parents - provided of course, that this is practical.
- Legal proceedings will focus more on children's best interests.
- Introduction of wider powers to deal with people who breach court orders.

The aim is for children to be able to have a meaningful relationship with both parents. For parents, it's about sharing the responsibilities and enjoyment of day-to-day parenting.

A better system for all.

There will be a much greater focus on children's best interests rather than legal issues.

Parents should be able to agree on what's best for their children, rather than fighting it out in a courtroom.

To help parents do this, the Government is investing significant



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THE KEY POINTS

- *Children come first*
- *Parents share in important decisions*
- *Reach agreement outside the Court system if possible*

funds over the next three years in the expansion of services to support families and assist them to resolve issues.

Information is at hand.

Detailed information kits are available by request or online. To find out more about the changes or details of the support services in your area, simply call **1800 050 321 (free call)** or visit www.australia.gov.au/familyrelationships

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Authorised by the Australian Government, Capital Hill, Canberra.



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