



OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER FOR
CHILDREN



VALUE CHILDREN NOW

<http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au>

Patmalar Ambikapathy
Commissioner for Children

Phone: (03) 6233 4520
Facsimile: (03) 6233 4515

Your Ref:
Our Ref:



9 July 2003

Ms Louise Gell
Acting Secretary
The Senate
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Gell,

Thank you for your letter of the 26 June, received on the 30 June. I regret that the notice is too short for me to make a detailed comment, but I would state briefly as follows:-

1. Powers of Courts to make binding orders on third parties can assist children financially and as such I support this amendment.
2. I believe it is important to register Parenting Plans to emphasise and confirm to parents the importance and binding nature of their responsibilities to the parenting of their children after separation. In New Zealand there is a clear understanding that parents' commitment to children must continue after marriage breakdown, both financially and emotionally. This is the right of the child and has been embodied in the Convention on the Rights of the Child which we should follow.
3. None of the above should be seen as rights of parents, but as their responsibilities in upholding the rights of their children.

Yours sincerely,

Patmalar Ambikapathy
Commissioner for Children