

Dear Senate Inquiry - Shared Parental Responsibility Bill 2005

This is a my submission to the Senate Inquiry into the provisions of the Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill 2005

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sharedparenting/message/19328>

From: Ashwin Patil <ashvani_patil@...>

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Subject: Aus: Make a submission to the Family Law Inquiry - every email counts!

Who are you going to call? "Mythbusters"

Here`s a few myth busters. Now ask them for their data.

http://www.canadiancrc.com/female_sexual_predators_awareness.htm

Sexual abuse by women of children and teens is a subject most parents and caregivers are not familiar with. Female sexual predators go unreported because of a lack of awareness by the public.

The best research available to us states that about 75% of sexual predators are male and 25% are female.

86% of the victims of female sexual predators aren't believed so the crimes go unreported and don't get prosecuted.

<http://www.torontofreepress.com/2004/medial11204.htm>

Media makes light of sexual assault on 8-year-old boy

Some in the mainline media saw no need to report the story of the sexual abuse of such a young boy in the same way that they would have reported alleged sexual assaults by a 29-year-old man on an 8-year-old girl. The most egregious was the New York Post. The Post's headline read, "CRADLE ROBBER - GAL WHO SEDUCED BOY, 8". There is no doubt that the newspaper would not have described an alleged male who assaulted a young girl as a "cradle robber"; nor would they have used an equivalent of the word "gal" to describe him. And there is an equally unlikely chance that the act of getting the child to have sex with him would be referred to as "seduction". The New York Post obviously thinks that a sexual assault committed by an attractive blonde woman in her 20s upon a very young boy is cute.

<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050714/d050714a.htm>

An estimated 7% of women and 6% of men in a current or previous spousal relationship encountered spousal violence during the five years up to and including 2004

*****note*** The following occurred during the highest mother sole custody rate in history. The effect of sole custody did not influence the rate. You can draw the conclusion sole custody has no effect therefore of no value in preventing violence by either partner. vox""

http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cissr-ecirc/pdf/cmhc_e.pdf

page 20

40% of investigated families were female-parent families (discussed in chapter 7 of the CIS Final Report).

http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cm-vee/csca-ecve/pdf/childabuse_final_e.pdf

page 51

30% of physical abuse victims were living in lone female-parent

families (see Table 7-1).

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sharedparenting/message/19154>

Female Perpetration Of Child Sexual Abuse: An Overview Of The Problem

Study, F Violence

According to local researchers Headey, Scott & de Vaus (1999) one important limitation of sample surveys is that they "suffer from having just sampled women (see e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics 1996), even though two national studies in the United States a decade ago showed no significant difference between physical assault rates experienced by male and female partners" (citing Gelles & Straus 1988, Straus & Gelles 1990)

University of New Hampshire researcher Straus (1993) reflecting on U.S. studies concludes that "research on who hit first does not support that assaults by wives are primarily acts of self defence or retaliation."

Some Local Research Results

(Heady et al (1999)

(1) "Men were just as likely to report being physically assaulted by their partners as women. Further, men and women were equally about likely to admit being violent themselves."

(2) "Men and women report experiencing the same level of pain and need for medical attention resulting from domestic violence."

(3) "Violence runs in couples. In over 50% of partnerships in which violence occurred both partners struck each other."

(4) "Moreover, the vast majority of those who are violent did not have violent parents."

Headey & colleagues (1999) say, "The first two results ran counter to conventional wisdom...Some degree of confirmation...derives from the fact that men's and women's reports on rates of domestic violence more or less agree. If women are to be believed (as they have been

by previous investigators) then so are the men. Further the results relating to women being as violent as men are in line with some recent American research"

Murder Suicides Are Biological Fathers More Deadly?

The article "When Dads Get Deadly" (Australian, 17 September 2003) provides chilling statistics on filicide that challenge conventional wisdom. Referring to the recent Sydney murder/suicide tragedy Christine Jackman writes:

"despite the disproportionate amount of publicity these crimes attract when they occur, murder-suicides committed by a father are among the rarest forms of child homicide. Australian Institute of Criminology statistics show there were 270 child homicide incidents in Australia from July 1989 to June 1999, involving 287 identified offenders and resulting in the deaths of 316 children under 15...

When children [younger than 15] are killed in Australia, they are most likely to be killed by a family member (66.9 per cent), primarily a parent (94.2 per cent)," Australian Institute Of Criminology (AIC) research analyst Jenny Mouzos says in her report 'Homicidal Encounters.'

Although fathers are responsible for most cases of filicide (the murder of children by their parents) in Australia, these numbers are inflated by the number of non-biological fathers who kill children.

When Mouzos crunched figures on the distribution of parents who killed children by gender and biological ties, she found biological mothers posed a more lethal risk to their own.

Biological mothers account for about 35 per cent of all filicides (about the same proportion as stepfathers and de factos), while biological fathers account for 29 per cent."

International Research Summary

A recent book by N Z academic Fletcher (2002) sums up the evidence from more than 70 studies involving 60,000 people in the U S, Canada, New Zealand,

Britain, Korea and Israel:

"The rate of violent acts (both minor and major) reported by men and women in intimate relationships, are roughly equivalent, however there is a slight tendency for both men and women to report that women are more likely to be the initiators of violence."

Conclusion

Family violence by wives has not been an object of public concern. There has been no publicity, and no funds have been invested in ameliorating this problem because it has not been defined as a genuine problem.

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(References)

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Christine Jackman. "When Dads Get Deadly" Australian, 17 September 2003

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Thank you for reading my submission

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