

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

Jackson hit in family law row
By GAVIN LOWER
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STATE Attorney-General Judy Jackson was displaying arrogance in the face of criticism of controversial family violence laws, the Opposition said yesterday.

Liberal justice spokesman Michael Hodgman said Ms Jackson was not up to her job and should be replaced.

Bail provisions in the Family Violence Act were attacked by a judge and lawyers this week for creating an injustice.

Justice Alan Blow attacked Section 12 of the Family Violence Act, saying it had resulted in a man suffering great injustice.

Justice Blow was sentencing David Andrew Olsen in the Supreme Court in Launceston after he pleaded guilty to aggravated assault.

Olsen, 35, spent nearly three months in jail after being refused bail under the strict demands of the Act.

Justice Blow said Olsen's offence had warranted only a suspended sentence and he had spent longer in custody than he deserved.

In May, Chief Justice Peter Underwood also criticised the bail provisions when considering a bail application by Olsen.

He said he would have granted bail "were I free of the restraints imposed by the Family Violence Act, Section 12".

Mr Hodgman said Ms Jackson had "lost the plot" over the strong criticism of the section of the law.

"The Chief Justice, Justice Alan Blow, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the president of the Law Society and former State Labor premier Doug Lowe can't all be wrong," he said.

"Or is it that once again Judy Jackson is the only one who is right?"

Outgoing Law Society of Tasmania president Daniel Zeeman said the Supreme Court was the superior court of the state.

"When judges of that court make comments identifying problems with any particular legislation, such comments should be taken seriously and acted upon," he said.

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Thank you for reading my submission

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