

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

Family group backs Govt plan to change custody laws  
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The Australian Family Association (AFA) says the Federal Government's planned changes to the Family Court's custody laws have the potential to benefit parents and children.

Under the new laws, the Family Court would force parents to prove they have a meaningful relationship with their child, will provide for them financially and are willing to provide a home.

The proposed changes also include setting up dispute resolution centres to deal with custody cases considered appropriate for informal negotiations.

Federal Attorney-General Philip Ruddock says the proposals will protect children's rights, but the Opposition is concerned some people could be at risk of violence in a more informal setting.

AFA spokesman Damien Tudehope says the changes will provide clearer guidelines for parents in custody cases.

"The reality about these sorts of proceedings is they are generally very fraught and what mediation hopefully will achieve is to create a situation where both parties acknowledge their responsibilities - to know what the guidelines are and work out a parenting plan for the best interests of their children - if it achieves those sorts of things then it's a good thing," he said.

Mr Tudehope says the changes will clarify the parameters for parents and increase their chances of shared contact with their children.

"It really sets out a model that anyone or separating parents should look at and say, 'this is the way I ought to be behaving so that I get the best relationship with my children'," he said.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/060204/21/xtrb.html>

Thank you for reading my submission

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