

Ruth Paillas  
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Wednesday 1 March 2006

Re: Federal Senate Inquiry into Proposed Changes to the Family Law Act

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a letter of endorsement for the submission by the Women's Legal Services Australia (WLSA) and particularly their priority recommendations to the senate committee.

My concerns support the focus of the Best Interests of the Child in the Family Law Act. Especially in relation to matters concerning the definition of family violence which should maintain its current threshold test and include psychological abuse and the witnessing of violence between family members.

Following on from this is the need for adequate training standards for Family Relationship Centres including the development of adequate screening processes to eliminate domestic violence from mediation.

Priority recommendations:

1. Recommendation 3 on s60CC(2)(a)
2. Alternative Recommendation 4 on s60CC(3)(c)
3. Recommendations 7-9 on s60B(1)
4. Recommendation 10 and alternative recommendation 10 on s117AB
5. Recommendation 11 on objective definition
6. Recommendation 12 on Division 11.
7. Alternative recommendation 15 on s65DAA.
8. Alternative recommendation 16 on s63DA.
9. Recommendations 17 and 18

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Ruth Paillas