

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

What is the effect on children of single parent families? What is prejudice and Bias? Is the current system exploited? Parents interests are currently taking over the best interests of the children! Will Children receive greater protection with the input of both parents?

I could give you examples of questions and answers all day but what is in the children's best interest. I appreciate every situation differs in complexity but it is one side or another exploiting the current legislation.

"Progression can only lead to improvement but without change movement is halted."

It is a child's right to spend equal parenting time after separation. We force children to choose or make judgements that they don't fully understand what impact what the circumstances will have on them.

Courts make judgements on who should be deemed the primary caregiver without taking into account the long term impact on that child. In all fareness love comes from both parents and relationships develop through contact and hence offers children a greater belonging and self-esteem. From sucessful parents a child forms greater belief in achieving the same goals as their role models.

Violence can be perpetrated by both sexes. Whilst sole custody relinquishes a parent's right to offer advice which may protect a child. In every instance there are conflicting stories but our current system provides a blindfold for any legal system investigating it.

Let's acknowledge that the current legislation is not working and rather than criticise the proposed changes, we work with them to refine the system so we can offer future solutions which will assist in the development of our children.

We should identify the needs of the minority and at all times protect the innocence of children but take every case on it's own merits, unbiast and without prejudice. The research shows that shared parenting after divorce brings positive benefits to both children and parents.

I'm one of those parents that has endured years of turmoil, because of an uncompromising situation that I have been helpless to offer my child an outstretched hand.

The government is to be congratulated on having the courage and energy to address Family Law and it's proposed changes of legislation.

Yours sincerely

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Thank you for reading my submission

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