

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

I am a divorced Father of 2 young children who only has 2 nights out of every 14 with my children. Like the majority of fathers I too have a good relationship with the mother on my children.

The current family laws do not adequately support non custodial parents. They are biased toward the custodial parent and fail to ensure children receive adequate time with both parents. In the majority of cases children who have both parents involved in the daily routine grow up with a balanced perspective to relationships and parenting. This then leads to children becoming better parents to future generations of Australians.

Domestic violence statistics should be questioned as the Australian male culture has for many decades focused on not talking about family issues and in particular Domestic Violence perpetrated by women. The fact is Domestic Violence is perpetrated by both men and women in our society.

There is a huge pressure placed on single parents who have Sole Custody. One parent dealing with the many issues that rearing children creates will reflect detrimentally on society. One parent has less ability to protect and guide children than two parents. Thus, the occurrence of child abuse is far more likely to occur in Sole Custody arrangements.

I urge you to reflect on your own family when deciding if the current proposed changes to family law would be of detriment to your children. Would your own children be at greater risk if you were to have equal parenting rights?

Thank you for reading my submission

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