

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

The following comes from my own experience and from ABS statistics:

I do not intend a comprehensive canvas of all issues but only raise some points some others may have omitted.

Equal Parenting would help relieve children of one of their greatest concerns after separation, ie that one of their beloved parents is suffering more than the other because of being 'cut off' more of the time. Children often have a very strong sense of justice and hate to see one parent disadvantaged.

Equal Custody would help limit the regrettably very common practice of using custody and access of children as a weapon.

The whole issue of Domestic Violence is heavily biased towards physical violence. While Emotional Violence is commonly recognised when it is used by men against women it is almost never even acknowledged when women use it against men. This is despite the fact that it is well recognised that the tools of emotional violence; slander and social manipulation are things that women are usually very much better at than men and therefore much more devastating when they employ them as weapons. (See Rachel Simmons' excellent 'Odd Girl Out').

A very common form of emotional violence employed by women against men is the poisoning of the relationships between the children and their father with lies and 'gossip' - this not only affects the father but has a very negative affect on the children as well. Equal Time would give the father more opportunity to counter-balance such slanders.

ABS records show consistently that 2/3 of all child abuse is committed by women. And this also has a very small recognition of the amount of emotional violence that women engage in - it too is very heavily slanted toward physical violence. So why trust women more than men?

Thank you for reading my submission

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