

CONFIRMATION  
OF EMAIL  
MESSAGE  
BY POST

23 February 2006

Your Reference: Bill # 05196

Committee Secretary,  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Attention Jonathan Curtis

Dear Sir,

**Equal parenting for bill # 05196 [*Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill*]**

**Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.**

The Attorney-General, Phillip Ruddock, tabled the *Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill* in Parliament and read the second reading speech on 8 December 2005. The Bill is being introduced by the Attorney-General as helping to improve current practice of family law. His intention may be quite genuine and this is not doubted. Prime Minister Mr John Howard is rightfully said that Family Law System doesn't work well.

The existing Family Law System practice is mother centred and doesn't address the best interests of the child (ren). Majority of mothers 92% get custody of the children after divorce in the Family Court. It is hard to believe that 92% of fathers are not fit to be a parent. Children are suffering from virtual loss of a loving and caring father. These semi orphan children raised in single mother environment are often cause of a string of various social problems. It is a product of systematic stereotyping, bias and entrenched medieval views of the divorce industry.

The Courts practising the Family Law shall follow the laws of Commonwealth and any ambiguity in drafting of these laws will give potential of erroneous interpretation of law and subsequently defective judgements and decisions. Corrections are not always possible by appeal process. It is important to draw appropriate laws to be clear and fair in the first instance.

The concept of Equal parenting shall be entrenched unambiguously in the new Family Laws. It is suggested to include the following concepts:

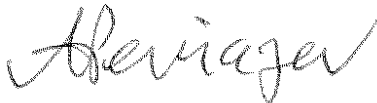
(i) As a starting point in child custody arrangements, acknowledge that every child has a fundamental right to equal parenting time with both the mother and the father, unless there are proven mitigating circumstances, or if the parents agree to an alternate arrangements.

(ii) Support the principle that women should receive equal pay for equal work. Shared Parenting will promote equal pay for women by giving both parents equal opportunity to work

(iii) deliberate attempts to isolate a child from a parent without just cause should be considered an act of form of domestic violence

Until significant fundamental changes are made to our legislation to focus on equal parenting concept, nothing will change.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alexander Peniazev".

Alexander Peniazev