

Thankyou very much for your response, unfortunately all the efforts you make will be of little or no consequence as these cases are usually delt with in the Family Court, which as you know is federally funded and controlled. You may have knowledge that there is currently a Senate Inquiry concerning The Family Violence Bill. As stated previously, I have been involved at the coal face of the Family Court and can see many failings as it exists today and changes must be made as soon as possible. The court's number one priority should be the children and outcomes that best support their future in our society. Australia signed the below convention and thus far have done nothing to move towards the delivery. Below is a small extract:-

All children should have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them by taking an active role in their families, communities and nations. This encompasses the freedom to express opinions, to have a say in matters affecting their own lives, to join associations and to assemble peacefully.

After a country signs an international convention, it needs to ensure that its laws and practices are consistent with the provisions of the convention to make the commitment to the document a reality. Governments that have signed the CRC must report every five years to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on what they are doing to provide children with their rights under the Convention. In many countries the lives of children have improved, but many children still do not have all they need to survive and develop fully.

I am currently involved in a growing group of men that are committed to rectify the current appalling Family Court process and we have asked the Senate Inquiry to consider the below briefs:-

The media be allowed in court rooms.

Immunity for judges ICLs etc be taken away.

The mothers can no longer be 'gagged'.

The separate Tribunal for cases of abuse allegations.

The voice of the child to be heard as soon as it can speak.

The presumption of equal shared parenting 'time' to go completely as this absolute rigidity, forcing a child to carry the weight to make it all "fair and equal" is causing the emotional downfall of many children.

Greater power for police to remove children where they feel there is a need, regardless of whether there is a court order - without having to refer the matter to Docs.

There is a need to ensure that all court appointed people making decisions in the psychiatric standing of parents need to be experts in the particular field required to make decisions. All too often the court accepts and rules on evidence presented by court appointed officials without the credentials to make such calls. All costs should be borne by the court in order for all involved to be involved on a level playing field. All too often money has a bearing on outcomes and this in particular is a total shortfall in the current system and fails the basic principal of the child's future.

Mr Foley, I would appreciate if you could support the above and do what you can to Communicate to the Federal Government that serious action needs to be taken and the children caught up in this mess be allowed a voice.

Kindest regards
Cameron Battersby

----- Original Message -----

Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 12:43 PM
Subject: Letter of Response

REFERENCE:
11SF00008/POL 11/00415

Dear Mr Battersby

I refer to your email raising concerns regarding the important issue of protection of children in circumstances of domestic violence.

Domestic violence is an issue that concerns the South Australian Government. Initiatives such as the Women's Safety Strategy and the Family Safety Framework have been developed and implemented to assist in reducing the incidents of domestic violence and provide better support for victims, including children.

The South Australian Parliament has passed the Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009 (**the Act**) which will commence operation later this year. The Act places the safety of victims, including children, at the forefront of any response to domestic abuse. As part of the 2009-10 Budget, Minister Foley announced that the Government would provide funding of \$7.8 million to support the implementation and management of this new legislation.

The South Australia Police (**SAPOL**) have advised that they have well established procedures to respond to and manage any reported incidents of domestic violence, with a particular focus on supporting victims and holding offenders accountable for their actions. Our police service works closely with other Government agencies to ensure the safety of children who are victims of, or witness to, domestic violence, or who are victims of child abuse or neglect independent of domestic violence situations. SAPOL and other Government agencies with a child protection mandate are well supported by legislative provisions, interagency agreements and protocols which enable them to effectively carry out their role.

Furthermore, representatives of SAPOL participate on a number of committees and working groups, to ensure the collaborative practices between agencies are functioning effectively to ensure timely and safe outcomes for child victims of domestic violence, abuse and neglect.

If you have any queries regarding broader child protection policies I suggest you contact the Minister for Families and Communities, Hon Jennifer Rankine MP.

I trust that the above information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

(Original Signed)

Hon Bernard Finnigan MLC
A/Minister for Police

14 April 2011

From: Cameron Battersby (...)
Sent: Wednesday, 16 February 2011 1:01 PM
To: DTF:Treasurer
Subject: Fw: Emailing: (...) Child Abuse

Dear Mr Foley, the attached document raises concerns with how vulnerable children are protected here in South Australia. I noticed recently that SA Police were given additional funds to afford investigation concerning domestic violence - can you please advise what has been done in line with the attached document to ensure SA children are the focal point concerning their protection. DOCS is tarred with the same brush throughout Australia and I have been on the coal face in Queensland with this mentality as mentioned in the attached and would strongly believe SA would be no different. These concerns across Australia regarding this subject, with even the Family Court exposed to failures to protect children - (...). I would like to organise a meeting as soon as possible to discuss this subject with you and the concerns myself and others in your elected community have regarding this. I look forward to your response as soon as possible.

Kindest regards

Cameron Battersby

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

(...) Child Abuse

(...)