

Submission into the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committees

Inquiry into the Family Law Legislation Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2011

I do not support and would appreciate you using your influence against the passing of the **Family Violence Bill** on the basis of points listed in summary below:

A Summary below of what the Family Violence bill really means to innocent Australian men and Children, by doing the following:

- creates an effective presumption of guilt against innocent fathers in family law matters
- makes conclusive evidence, especially in defence of abuse claims, subservient to subjective beliefs
- removes penalties against knowingly false allegations of child abuse & domestic abuse
- provides tacit encouragement for Parental Alienation by removing the 'friendly parent' provision
- perpetuates the offensive and unfounded stereotype that men are a natural threat to their children
- perpetuates the untruth that Shared Parenting exposes children to child abuse. In fact, shared parenting households are statistically the safest environments for children.
- perpetuates the unfounded presumption that mothers are unable to harm or abuse their children
- perpetuates the unfounded presumption that women never engage in domestic abuse
- has so diluted the concept of domestic abuse, that it can be applied to any form of behaviour, whether it is real, innocent and benign, or completely imagined;
- contravenes the United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child by denying the child their right to participate 'meaningfully and fully' with both their mother and their father.
- contravenes the International Bill of Human Rights by denying fathers their right to a fair trial
- violates Sex Discrimination standards, by procuring laws designed to only protect half the population from domestic violence, while ignoring or dismissing the other half.
- has slashed funding for post-separation mediation to force parents back into the Court system
- will in effect divert seriously scarce child protective resources from their primary task of genuine child protection, to that of chasing up legally motivated allegations.
- will promote sole maternal custody, which according to the Australian Institute of Criminology, accounts for almost 80% of all familial child abuse.