

Dear Committee Secretary,

I'm writing in regards to "shared parenting laws" and to share with you mine and my children's story.

We (my family) believe that there are a number of changes needed immediately that has not been addressed in the Bill. We urge you to consider amendments to:

- The presumption of equal shared parental responsibility.*
- The concept of equal shared parental responsibility.*
- The link between equal shared parental responsibility and equal time/substantial and significant time arrangements.*
- The "one size fits all" approach in which it is assumed that equal time and substantial and significant time arrangements are best for children.*

We urge you and the Federal Government to act now in response to the evidence-based research you have commissioned in the past 18 months and the promises you have made to address the serious problem of family violence in the family law system. We strongly recommend you pass this Bill expeditiously with our suggested amendments.

The best interests of the child are to be determined by an examination of the factors as set out in s.60CC of the Act. These factors are to be examined, weighed and applied against the facts of each case within the ambit of the objects and their underlying principles as set out in s.60B of the Act, as follows:

- *(b) protecting children from physical or psychological harm from being subjected to, or exposed to, abuse, neglect or family violence; and*
- *(c) ensuring that children receive adequate and proper parenting to help them achieve their full potential; and*
- *(d) ensuring that parents fulfil their duties, and meet their responsibilities, concerning the care, welfare and development of their children.*

It would seem that (c) & (d) do not come into any factoring when it came to my children in particular my son.

My story will indeed get worse as my children will want to participate in extra curricula activities and they will suffer....not the magistrates, not the family report writers....they don't know my children and indeed their father does not know them as he refuses to hear their mother (the main carers) views and indeed his own children's views.

Shared parenting needs to go....it's hurting the children and cutting them in half!! The children are not able to enrich and enhance their lives nor enjoy and participate in activities due to "spend time with father" laws.....the father should be involved and take their children, if it's not near their father's home and he cannot take them please let the mother take them don't just stop them participating!!

Who is looking after my children's best interests????? I know I am but I have been shot down by a magistrate and a family report writer who clearly does not like women and who do not know my children!