



To whom it may concern,

Submission into DV inquiry in collaboration
with Parents Beyond Breakup (PBB)

For the purpose of providing more information to the panel is to tell the panel more about our organisation, how we can work together and provide suggestions based on expertise.

About the Eeny Meeny Miney Mo Foundation (EMMM)

EMMM is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to raising awareness of Parental Alienation. EMMM provides information and education to individuals and organisations about Parental Alienation and its impact. We also provide self-help resources to individuals experiencing parental alienation. We also convene and online support group.

Research

In collaboration with the Families and Interpersonal Relationships Research Lab at the University of Tasmania, the EMMM foundation is currently conducting the following research:

- An investigation into the experience of alienated parents and children who have reunified following Parental Alienation.
- Exploration of the experience of alienated parents with the aim of understanding how they became alienated from their children and how they cope with being alienated.
- A systematic review of the literature on interventions for parental alienation with the aim of providing recommendations for evidence based best practice responses for parental alienation.
- An investigation into when shared care of children is indicated and contraindicated following separation.
- We have surveyed 660 alienated parents to determine if parental alienation is a form of family violence. The results show that alienated parents experience psychological and physical abuse at the hands of the alienating parent before and after the alienation occurs.

Parental Alienation Australia Ltd t/as **Eeny Meeny Miney Mo Foundation**
PO Box 3873 Victoria Point West QLD 4165
www.emmm.org.au

Please find the attached academic articles:

- Recommendations for best practice in response to parental alienation: findings from a systematic review
By Kate Templer, Mandy Matthewson, Janet Haines and Georgina Cox
- Parental alienation: Targeted parent perspective
By Sian Balmer, Mandy Matthewson, and Janet Haines
- Child Affected by Parental Relationship Distress
By William Bernet, Marianne Z. Wamboldt, William E. Narrow
- Adult Recall of Childhood Exposure to Parental Conflict: Unpacking the Blackbox of Parental Alienation
By Amy JL Baker and Jaclyn Chambers
- 10 Parental Alienation Fallacies that Compromise the Decisions in Court and in Therapy
By Richard A Warshak

Alternatives to single expert witnesses and independent children lawyers

EMMM is of the view that the following initiatives would assist in preventing children from being exposed to further violence and abuse from Parental Alienation and other forms of family violence:

Ensure that families experience high conflict during the course of custody proceedings are assessed by experts in clinical psychology and referred for family therapy earlier in the legal process.

- The role of clinical psychologists as single experts is to:
Identify parental alienation as distinct from other family dynamics that lead to high conflict. Assess for psychopathology and conduct thorough risk assessments.

The role of clinical psychologists as family therapist is to work with family members to monitor and address issues of risk, address the impact of family violence, teach parents how to co-parent effectively and provide children the opportunity to have a relationship with both parents when it is safe to do so.

It is recommended that interviews with family members when conducted by single experts be video recorded as a matter of course, so that this evidence can be reviewed by other experts, if necessary.

Regulation and education of practitioners

EMMM is of the view that single experts conducting family assessments and family therapy be trained in identifying parental alienation and evidence based therapeutic practices. To this end, EMMM in collaboration with other interested professionals have created Co-parenting Australia Ltd trading as Australian Parental Alienation Practitioners (APAP). This professional association has been created to provide training, education and professional supervision for practitioners working with families who are experience high conflict and Parental Alienation.

EMMM also recommends that all Family Consultants are trained in the identification of parental alienation and gender inclusive practices.

Parental Alienation Australia Ltd t/as **Eeny Meeny Miney Mo Foundation**
PO Box 3873 Victoria Point West QLD 4165
www.emmm.org.au

Other important changes for consideration

EMMM would like to see Court Orders regarding custody and visitation of children as well as engagement in intervention programs enforced. When Orders are contravened, they must be enforced and appropriate penalties applied. These penalties may include Recovery Orders and transfer of custody. Furthermore, when it has been established that a parent has made false allegations of family violence in the Family Court in order to gain advantage in the Family Court, there must be appropriate legal sanctions for this form of perjury.

When a custody dispute involves Parental Alienation it is found that false allegations of abuse have been used to facilitate the alienation, child support should cease until a custody agreement can be made and adhered to.

If you would like further information please do not hesitate to contact us on our emails mentioned below.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Sillars
Founder/Director
Eeny Meeny Miney Mo Foundation

Dr Mandy Matthewson
Director
Eeny Meeny Miney Mo Foundation