

23rd June 2011

Att: Committee

It is with great concern that I view the changes you are proposing to Family Law.

It is apparent that you and this government are doing nothing more than promoting the narrow interests of vindictive and misguided women's groups under the guise of the best interests of the children. A cursory examination of the submissions of these groups all have one thing in common. They attempt to redefine family violence from proven to alleged. Moreover they seek to change the law so that ALLEGED violence against women is to be considered violence against children.

In particular it is disgusting that they seek to remove the provision for financially punishing a parent who makes a false allegation of abuse against the other parent. The comments from these special interests groups that this provision discourages a parent from raising genuine claims is unscientific, not based on any empirical evidence and is on the whole quite illogical. Genuine claims will always be put. One does not consider the consequences. Consequences are there for people who lie and act deceitful. The result will be an explosion of allegations. The perverted logic you are being asked to swallow is that it is not important to ascertain the veracity of the allegation but that the person making the allegation believes it so. In short, the lunatics are going to run the asylum. Raising baseless claims is a tactic often raised by vindictive parents and encouraged by their lawyers as a way of promoting alienation between the children and their former partner. Any parent who has been a victim to this sort of strategy will tell you how they have had to spend months, years and a fortune to disprove the allegation (a legal anomaly) and reconnect with their children. The children will be estranged from this parent by the other former partner until the application is heard in court, with the result that too much time has passed, and the children have been poisoned and manipulated by the custodial parent. The attitude is that the child would be too traumatized to be reunited with its falsely accused parent. The net result is that we reward deceitful conduct. Conduct which all the credible evidence says will cause the children to live a dysfunctional existence. Given this, it is disgusting that these special interest groups seek to legalise this disgusting and destructive behaviour. Behaviour which is CHILD ABUSE.

The current provision is the only legal sanction available to a court and a party to hold vindictive and spurious parents to account.

Your amendment if allowed, will lead to an explosion of false claims of abuse in particular by women and lead to permanent and prolonged alienation between parents (usually fathers) and their children. This is inevitable.

I can imagine the political pressure that is being put on you and the government to enact these changes under the guise of protecting children. This is a lie and you are being deceived. You know it so.

Permanent alienation is not in the children's best interests. It is on the whole CHILD ABUSE to cause alienation between children and their parent.

By the time the court gets around to ascertaining the veracity of a claim for abuse it will be too late. There will be no relationship with their falsely accused parent.

These changes will lead to child abuse. For that is what you call stripping a parent and child from each other. This is not in a child's best interests. So please do not repeat the claim that the changes are in the best interests of the child. This is the propaganda

espoused by these insidious special interest groups.

What is even more perplexing is the recommendation that children have a voice in the Family Court proceedings. You are being asked to involve a child in a process that is traumatic for adults let alone children? These groups cannot be taken seriously. All the empirical evidence, yes even their own sources will tell you, that children are too young to process what is going on and it should not be left to children to make decisions which are rightly left to adults. Children are manipulated by vindictive parents. It is beyond dispute that children are covertly and overtly recruited into the conflict by scheming and vindictive parents who take advantage of a child's lack of insight into psychological abuse by a parent. Children should be shielded from the process as much as possible. (...)

This is the tragedy.

Your changes will discourage those from trying to stop the abuse of our children. They will instead promote child abuse.

Do not allow yourselves to be hoodwinked by the hyperbole and emotive arguments that have no basis in reality. These changes will only lead to more destructive litigation. They will encourage false claims which will only put legal barriers between a parent and their children. Barriers which a parent will fight to be reunited with their children. The result. Already fat cat Family law lawyers, fatter. Parents left financially destitute and children not having any relationship with a parent.

If you want to change the system for the better then take the adversarial approach out of the system. Make it mandatory on parents alleging violence against children to prove their allegations. In the meantime take the children away from both parents until the allegations are dealt with. How many parents will then use this strategy knowing the consequences?