

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

11 March 2011

The Dads4Kids Fatherhood Foundation would like to register its total opposition to the proposed private members bill by Senator Bob Brown called the "*Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Amendment (Disallowance and Amendment Power of the Commonwealth) Bill 2010*", for the following reasons.

It is going against the constitution. Australia has one of the most stable and functional governments in the world and according to the Democracy Index prepared by the Economic Intelligence Unit based on 60 indicators, Australia is number 6 in the world out of 167 countries. This is due to our Judeo-Christian heritage of law and the widely acclaimed and admired constitution which has been in effect since 1901. The constitution provides a fine balance between the monarchy, law and the parliament along with a fine balance between the states and federal government. Within that balance are rules and regulations that govern territories which are under the direct control of the executive. This has proven to be, and has been recognised worldwide as a very functional, effective and stable form of government. Senator Brown's bill would upset this finely tuned form of government and allow the territories to exercise influence at a federal level beyond the intent of Australia's constitution.

We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to speak before the committee so that we can raise other issues that will impact the mothers, fathers and children of Australia in a most deleterious way. We have many others who would like to join us in our submission should we be given the opportunity to speak at the committee hearing.

Yours faithfully

Warwick Marsh



Fatherhood Foundation
PO Box 542
UNANDERRA NSW 2526
Ph: 02 4272 6677
Fax: 02 4272 6680
Email: info@fatherhood.org.au
Web: www.fatherhood.org.au