

SUBMISSION FOR INQUIRY INTO CHILD CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS

FROM :- GRAEME SADDLIER (REPRESENTING LONEFATHERS OF
BRISBANE)

- (1) An extensive Education Program be put in place for the purpose of pre-marital education into the causes of marriage breakdown.
- (2) Marital Responsibilities should be part of school curriculum in secondary schools.
- (3)
 - (a) When a marriage breakdown occurs, it be compulsory for BOTH parties to attend a mediation course, either individually or collectively within 30 days of separation.
 - (b) The mediator to have Family Court Stamp Agreement Papers within 60 days of separation.
 - (c) Points of Discussion Guidelines set down (i.e.)
 - (i) Custody
 - (ii) Shared Parenting
 - (iii) Access
 - (iv) Child Support Payments
 - (v) Centrelink Payments
 - (vi) Education
 - (vii) Grandparents
 - (viii) Other relevant issues
 - (d) If Mediation is not successful then Family Court to decide the arrangements, but only as last resort.
 - (e) Heavy penalties to apply to any breach of agreement.
 - (f) Authorized Mediators must have full credentials. There would be many people in the community that would be qualified.
 - (g) This proposal would eliminate expensive legal fees and Family Law costs which are currently taking money from parents that would be available for children's education and welfare.
- (4) SHARED PARENTING
Parenting Payment needs to be addressed :- Currently it can only be paid to 1 member of a couple. This discriminates against the 2nd party when receiving shared custody.

Graeme Saddlier
Phone (07) 3376 2876 or Mob 0418 355 196

