05;10:23 ;NT Law Society ;08 89411623 08 89411623 GPO BOX 2388. DARWIN NORTHERN TERRITORY 0801 TELEPHONE: (08) 8981 5104 FAX: (08) 8941 1623 EMAIL: lawsoc@lawsocnt.asn.au LAW SOCIETY WEB: www.lawsocnt.asn.au NORTHERN TERRI ABN 62 208 314 893 Submission No. 18 July 2005 Date Received Ms J Towner Secretary

Secretary Standing Committee on Legal and Constitution Affairs Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Per Facsimile: 02 6277 4427

Dear Ms Towner

RE: REVIEW OF EXPOSURE DRAFT OF THE FAMILY LAW AMENDMENT (SHARED PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY) BILL 2005

The Family Law Committee of the Law Society Northern Territory has considered in some detail the draft Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill 2005. We have also had the benefit of reviewing the submission prepared by the National Legal Aid organisation (copy attached).

We support the generality of comments made by National Legal Aid, to which members of the Family Law Committee have had some input, and we would urge that they be taken into consideration by members of your standing committee.

Please let us know the outcome of your committee's decision in due course.

Thank you for giving the Law Society Northern Territory the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

Barbara Bradshaw Chief Executive Officer