



## It's not time to focus on who's right. It's time to focus on what's right for our kids.

### *The new Family Law System puts children first.*

All children have a right to grow up with the love, support and guidance of both their parents and both parents have a responsibility to raise their children.

That's why the Government has introduced the biggest changes to the Family Law system in 30 years.

### *Sharing the responsibility - it's now law.*

The new laws take the view that parenting is a responsibility which should be shared, as long as this is safe and in the best interests of the children.

These are examples of the changes that are now in place:

- In most cases, parents need to consult and agree on major issues affecting children,

such as their health and schooling.

- Where both parents share responsibility, consideration will be given to the children spending equal, or at least substantial time with both parents - provided of course, that this is practical.
- Legal proceedings focus more on children's best interests.
- Introduction of wider powers to deal with people who breach court orders.

The aim is for children to be able to have a meaningful relationship with both parents. For parents, it's about sharing the responsibilities and enjoyment of day-to-day parenting.

### *A better system for all.*

There will be a much greater focus on children's best interests rather than legal issues. Parents should be able to agree on

what's best for their children, rather than fighting it out in a courtroom.

To help parents do this, the Government is investing significant funds over the next three years in the expansion of services to support families and assist them to resolve issues.

#### THE KEY POINTS

- *Children's best interests come first*
- *Parents share in important decisions*
- *A less confrontational process*

#### *Information is at hand*

Detailed information kits about the new laws are available by request or online.

To find out more about the changes or details of the support services in your area, call the Family Relationships Advice Line on **1800 050 321 (free call)** or simply visit [www.australia.gov.au/familyrelationships](http://www.australia.gov.au/familyrelationships)