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28 June 2004

Mr Phillip Bailey  
Acting Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Per email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Bailey

### **Inquiry into the Family Law Amendment Bill**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee's inquiry into the *Family Law Amendment Bill 2004*.

Credit Union Services Corporation (Australia) Limited (CUSCAL) is the peak industry association and aggregated services provider for the majority of Australia's credit unions. Credit unions play an important part in the retail banking sector, with combined assets of over \$30 billion and over 3.5 million members Australia wide.

Credit unions have always had an active interest in bankruptcy law reform and are represented by CUSCAL on the Federal Government's Bankruptcy Consultative Forum. As such, credit unions have a keen interest in these proposed amendments, in particular the interaction of family law and bankruptcy law.

The relevant provisions of the *Family Law Amendment Bill 2004* of interest to our member credit unions for the purposes of this Inquiry, are those contained within Part 19 of the Bill.

CUSCAL on behalf of its member credit unions supports the proposed amendments. Credit unions support the Government's initiative to implement some of the recommendations of the 2002 *Joint Taskforce Report on the Use of Bankruptcy and Family Law Schemes to Avoid Payment of Tax*.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comment to the Inquiry. I look forward to your advice on the Committee's deliberations.

Should you wish to discuss these comments, I may be contacted on 02 8299 9049.

Yours sincerely

**KAREN SMITH**  
Senior Adviser, Industry Representation – Public Affairs