

**From:** [Cathy Prendergast](#)  
**To:** [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)  
**Subject:** My Submission: Bill of Rights  
**Date:** Sunday, 17 April 2016 1:54:16 PM

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To The Research Director  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety,

I and The Australian Brotherhood of Fathers are calling for a urgent review of Family Law Policy including the much outdated Family Law Act of 1975.

We require automatic 50/50 shared care after family separation and if special circumstances exist, provide social and legal services to assist Families to get back on track.

Thousands of Children are missing out on seeing both Parents after a family unit breaks down.

Much of this is to with 'Parental alienation' committed by one of the Parents.  
Some of this is to with false allegations of domestic violence by one Parent and Child Support issues, ie 'if you don't pay child support you are not seeing our Children.'

Perjury should be automatic for those Parents stating false allegations.  
Proof needs to be shown of allegations.  
DVO 'S are being handed out left right and centre with no proof needing to be shown.  
Relationship issues have nothing to do with child access, they are separate.  
Thousands of parents are withholding the Child from the other Parent to improve their financial situation.

In the meantime, unless a Parent has free Legal Aid to use in an attempt to arrange 'normal' concrete child access, they and their Family is out of pocket by at least \$100,000 to pay our legal system to rightfully see their own Children.  
Some Grandparents have sold their property, mortgaged their homes and used their Superannuation resources to assist their Child going through family access issues.

Compulsary mediation is a winner, why not instigate this during a turmoil of family separation.

Mediation is compulsory by Legal Aid if they approve your funding.  
We have been through mediation 4 times, yet the other side keeps disobeying reasonable consent hours in a big way.  
We and others do not have 2 more years minimum to try and get this off the ground.  
Meanwhile, the Child waits.

When a Child waits for access to both Parents during years of unnecessary drawn out

cases, their mental health is suffering, especially when they have to deal with a Parent not considering both Parents are a force in their life.

Also, in Australia, 21 Fathers per week are ending their life due to child access issues.

Sad, is it not?

A Child losing their dedicated Father this way, forever.

Let's wake up and make time for time.

Thank you.

Cathy Prendergast

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