

This is my submission to the Family Law Act amendments in response to Family Violence - Public Consultation.

The Human Rights Section of the Family Law States:

"9. Discrimination against women includes gender-based violence-that is, violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. Although family violence is perpetrated by both men and women, and the Family Law Act is accordingly gender-neutral, the majority of those who experience family violence are women."

The above paragraph claimed that the Family Law Act is gender-neutral yet the changes proposed to the Family Law Act discriminate against men. There is nothing in the proposed changes to protect men from family violence which the Family Law Act agrees can be perpetrated by women - therefore changes specifically to protect women in the Family Law Act immediately become gender specific not gender-neutral. When the Family Law Act becomes so predominately protective of women then it assumes predominantly the innocence of women or that women are the victims. This is a seriously dangerous stand to make especially when seeking to protect children from abuse. Parent Alienation is child abuse and can have permanent life long affects on the mental and emotional health of children. The Family Court should have access to this information as it is widespread knowledge throughout the world – (See [Eny Meeny Miney Mo: https://www.emmm.org.au](https://www.emmm.org.au).) It is perpetrated by both men and women just as family violence is perpetrated by men and women.

In section 9. above the Family Law Act claims "the majority of those who experience family violence are women", dismissing male victims of family violence and putting no protection in the Family Law Act for men. This is not being gender-neutral. I could equally say the majority of Parent Alienation is perpetrated by women however, unlike the Family Law Act, I don't dismiss the pain suffered by women who have been alienated from their children. I feel the Family Law Act is closing its eyes to this child abuse in the form of Parental Alienation, in their efforts to "protect the female victim".

[Information redacted]

The Family Law Act was not gender-neutral 10 years ago and the proposed changes are drifting further away from gender-neutrality and the children are the one's that will suffer in the long run. The Family Law act needs to think about the best interests of children, not just throw that term around, and stop Parental Alienation. Instead the Family Law act seems to be more interested in being politically correct and pushing the argument that men are the perpetrators of family violence and women are the victims. Women (and men) who use their children as tools to abuse their ex-spouses are not victims they are abusers, child abusers, perpetrators of family violence. The Family Law Act needs to protect these children.

Finally - saying "although family violence is perpetrated by both men and women, and the Family Law Act is accordingly gender-neutral, the majority of those who experience family violence are women", to me is like my ex-partner saying, "sorry I hit you but you have to admit you did deserved it".

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