

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned, are child advocates (psychologists, social workers, solicitors, mediators, social service agency workers, youth workers, etc.). We write to express the view that "equal shared care" is not in the best interests of children, and that the requirement in the Family Law Act that it must be considered is at odds with the primacy on the "best interests of the child" already required by the Act.

Research, and the experience of Australian families, shows that equal shared care does not work well for children unless the parents are amicable and communicate well, have congruent parenting styles and live close to each other. Obviously, the court does not often see these sorts of cases, since those parents probably have developed their own parenting plan long before going to court.

We are asking that the Family Law Act be changed to eliminate the requirement that the court consider equal shared care and that the only requirement for parenting plans/orders is the best interests of the child(ren). Our children need, and deserve, our focus and our protection.

Name: _____.

Address: _____.

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Telephone: _____.

Email: _____.

Signature: _____.