

Press Release: June 7th, 2004

'Don't be a DAD!', urges Australian civil rights group

Australian civil rights lobby group, **fathers-4-equality**, has urged all Australian men to refrain from having children, if possible.

In response to growing concerns that legally enforced sexism continues to permeate through every aspect of the family law process, single fathers across Australia have lost faith in ongoing political discussions and committee's that seem to be going nowhere.

Along with the federal government's wavering commitment to the principle of equality within the family court, and in light of the opposition leader's grand vision of replacing committed single father's with "male role models", many men have given up on any hope of truly being fathers again.

Sonja Hastings, spokesperson for **fathers-4-equality**, stated that "if the treatment fathers received in the family court was to occur to women in any sector of society, there would be justified outrage." But judges, lawyers, politicians and many women's groups are of the view that discrimination against men is acceptable in modern day society.

Ms Hastings urges all Australian men to think seriously about the consequences of having children in this country. She says that "no matter how decent, hardworking & caring you may be as a father, that in the event of separation, you will more than likely not get custody of your child, you will lose up to 80% of all your assets, you will have to pay up to 5 times the cost of raising a child, & most importantly you could never see your child again, and the law will do nothing to help you."

However, if you still want to have children, Ms Hastings supplies the following suggestions:

- Ensure you sign a fair and reasonable pre-nuptial agreement before marriage, and use this pre-nuptial agreement to document an understanding of equal and shared parenting (50/50 joint residence), if you were to have children, in the event of separation.
- And don't work too hard! If extra money is required by your family, let your wife work her fair share of the overtime. Remember that for every extra dollar you earn for your family, this is an extra reason that the family court will use to deny you fair access to your children.

fathers-4-equality is lobbying the federal government to introduce a legislated presumption of 50/50 shared physical custody, rebuttable if child abuse can be substantiated, or if both parents agree to an alternate agreement. This they claim would put a stop to the modern day 'stolen generation', whereby children are robbed of their natural right to have meaningful relationships with both their parents.

[Distribute freely]

For further information contact:
A.Patil: President
fathers4equality@publicist.com
fathers-4-equality Australia
PO Box 1264
Portland Vic 3305