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12/12/2008

The Hon Robert McClelland MP
Federal Attorney General
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600.

Dear Mr McClelland

I write to you on behalf of my organisation and also Parents Without Partners Australia, Dads In Distress, and the Shared Parenting Council of Australia, regarding absorbing of the Federal Magistrates Court into the Family Court.

This may save the Government a few million dollars, but in our opinion would be a disaster for thousands of men and women going through the courts as the result of marriage and relationship breakdown.

Since the Federal Magistrates Court was introduced into to the system clients have been able to get their cases heard a great deal more quickly, more fairly, and more cheaply.

The Family Court unfortunately is not a court of equity. Rather it is a court that makes orders but cannot uphold its own motions. It is also a very expensive Court to have proceedings heard.

Lone Fathers Association Australia Inc. and the above associations mentioned request that the Government refer this matter to a Parliamentary Committee to allow a public enquiry.

This will allow the public and stakeholders to consider the proposal and express their views.

Yours Sincerely

Barry Williams BEM, JP,CMC
National President
LFAA



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OF MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES