# *DENISE KING*
## *Family Lawyer – Mediator – Children's Lawyer*


Dear Sir

**Re: Establishment of Commissions**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make submissions about the current Bill to establish a Commission into Judicial Misbehaviour and Incapacity and about the Family Law System. I have read the submission of Justice for Children Australia and agree with the points raised in that submission. Likewise my own focus is on the Family Law System rather than general Judicial Misbehaviour and Incapacity, although the latter is part of the problems in the Family Law system.

My specialty is in Family Law in which I have practised since 2001 after previously being a family counsellor, mediator and teacher of communications at TAFE for a number of years. I have also had many years experience in administration at senior levels with IBM Australia Ltd, the Health Commission and Commonwealth and State Departments of Education; have led workshops on conflict resolution in Australia and at an International Conference at Stanford University and had two articles published on Family Law Specialists and Internet Mediation. My B.A. included a double major in psychology and education and I completed all but the research project in a Graduate Diploma in Psychology (which I could not do because of my parents deaths and surgery), a unit of Conflict Resolution (counselling, mediation, arbitration and litigation) Family Mediation and an LLB (Grad) in which I studied Family Law and Advanced Torts in Family Law, and have recently completed a Master of Laws by research on high conflict cases and parental and child alienation from a cross-discipline approach (Psychology and Law).

I have attached my comments on the Bill for establishing a Commission into Judicial Misbehaviour and Incapacity. However I believe that there needs to be a separate Commission into the Family Law System unless this can be included in the same Commission. I understand the issue of the division of powers. However I agree with the comments in the submission by *Justice for Children Australia* that this results in a legal system that is "*self referential, self serving and self perpetuating"*. This needs to be changed so that Family Law processes don't just continue to go round in circles with only minor changes being made, and the processes that are part of the cause of a faulty system remain the same.

I have attached parts of my Master of Laws thesis, including the Abstract, the last chapters 5 and 6, draft orders, proposed pilot projects, Bibliography and index to the full thesis. These refer to the need for change in the Family Law System together with proposed initial orders and a pilot project that the government might consider implementing.

I support many of the views of the *Justice for Children Australia* submission.

Yours faithfully
*Denise E King*

Denise King BA LLB (graduate) (graduate studies in psychology, counselling, conflict resolution, mediation, training and development; 25 years experience in education, 20 years in counselling, law and mediation).
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