



21-day ex parte limit · child support in 30 days · \$10/hr childcare · 26wk parental leave · right to disconnect · granny flats · free counselling

21 days

Ex parte limit
Both heard — guaranteed

30 days

Child support
Reassessment on income drop

\$10/hr

Childcare cap
Maximum. Not means tested

26 wks

Parental leave
8 wks reserved each parent

THE PROBLEM — THE FAMILY COURT SYSTEM IS DESTROYING FAMILIES AND FATHERS

EX PARTE — ONE SIDE OF THE STORY

A Family Violence Restraining Order can be obtained on the basis of one party's account, without the other party being present or heard. The order is made. Family court proceedings that

CHILD SUPPORT — DEBT TRAP

When a parent's income drops — through job loss, illness, or career change — the Child Support Agency continues to assess them at the higher income. Debt accumulates. The

PRICED OUT OF HAVING CHILDREN

Australia's fertility rate is 1.63. Replacement is 2.1. Survey after survey shows Australians want more children than they are having. They are being priced out. Housing: cannot afford space for

THE MMP SOLUTION — ROYAL COMMISSION — IMMEDIATE REFORMS — MINISTRY FOR FAMILIES

ROYAL COMMISSION — FAMILY LAW

A Royal Commission: whether the adversarial model serves children; whether ex parte FVROs are used tactically; whether the 2023 removal of equal parental responsibility was evidence-based; why proceedings cost \$100,000+ per party; and the deeper question of why marriages are failing at this rate.

EX PARTE FIXED — 21 DAYS BOTH HEARD

No ex parte parenting order removing a parent from a child's life may stand more than 21 days without both parties being heard. The current system allows removal on one account — without hearing, without evidence tested, with no timeline for resolution. That ends immediately, pending the Royal Commission's full recommendations.

CHILD SUPPORT REASSESSED IN 30 DAYS

Child support reassessment applications processed within 30 days where income has dropped more than 15%. Under the current system a parent waits months while debt accumulates at the old rate. 30 days is the maximum. The debt does not compound while the system delays.

NO PASSPORT CANCEL ON A PLAN

Passport cancellation and licence suspension for child support debt are suspended where the debtor is on a payment plan and adhering to it. These tools, applied to a parent who is demonstrably trying to pay, prevent earning and destroy the very capacity to pay they are supposed to enforce.

MINISTRY FOR FAMILIES — DAY 1

A dedicated Ministry for Families with a single mandate: make Australia a great place to form and raise a family. Every bill includes a Family Impact Statement. Planning rules that prevent granny flats. Tax rules that penalise couples. Welfare rules that punish partnership. All reviewed. Most reformed. Some abolished.

CHILDCARE \$10/HR — 26WK LEAVE

Childcare capped at \$10/hr maximum. Not means-tested. Universal. 26 weeks total parental leave, 8 weeks reserved non-transferable for each parent — use it or lose it for both. Normalises fathers being present in the early weeks. 15 hours per week of free early childhood education for every 3 and 4 year old.

RIGHT TO DISCONNECT — FIFO

Employees cannot be required to respond to work outside paid hours. For parents of children under 12: flexible work is the presumed right. Employer must demonstrate genuine necessity to refuse. And the FIFO non-default: when a worker comes home at night instead of flying out, a family stays together.

GRANNY FLATS AS OF RIGHT

Granny flats approved as of right on residential properties nationally. No council discretion to refuse. Complying development only. Keeps ageing parents near family, reduces aged care demand, provides affordable housing for adult children, creates multigenerational options that planning currently obstructs.

FREE RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLING

Free relationship counselling through Medicare. Relationship education in schools — Australians learn academic subjects but almost nothing about sustaining a relationship or managing conflict. After any order reducing a parent's contact, that parent is contacted within 14 days by a mental health service. Not optional. Automatic.

LEGAL AID — NEEDS NOT GENDER

Legal aid on financial need, not gender. Mandatory mediation before filing, except where family violence is supported by evidence. Immediate minimum while the Royal Commission develops the real answer. Commission reports in two years. MMP implements within twelve months of the final report.

FARRER — HIGHEST IN AUSTRALIA

Farrer has some of Australia's highest rates of family breakdown, male suicide, and family court involvement. Distances from regional towns to court registries add cost and time to proceedings already unaffordable. The Royal Commission will hear from Broken Hill, Bourke, Griffith, Mildura, and Wentworth. Farrer will be heard.

BRETT'S EXPERIENCE — THE CREDENT

Brett has not seen or spoken to his four children for three years. Not because a court heard the evidence. Because a system that allows ex parte orders and treats allegations as findings produced its predictable result. He is not claiming he is perfect. He is claiming the system is broken. That is the qualification.

CURRENT vs MMP SOLUTION

CURRENT — THE PROBLEM

MMP — THE SOLUTION

Ex parte orders can remove a parent from children's lives indefinitely on one account.

Ex parte limit: 21 days maximum. Both parties heard. Guaranteed. Immediate.

Child support assessment: continues at old income rate when earnings drop. Debt accumulates.

Income drop of 15%+: reassessment within 30 days. Maximum. No delay debt accumulation.

Passport cancelled for child support debt, even while on a payment plan.

Passport cancellation suspended while on payment plan and adhering to it.

Family law proceedings: 12–24 months. Cost: \$100,000+ per party. Justice denied.

Royal Commission: adversarial model examined. Faster resolution. Lower cost. Better outcomes.

Legal aid: available differently by gender. Mediation not mandatory.

Legal aid on financial need only. Mandatory mediation before filing (except genuine violence).

Childcare: average \$150/day. Second income entirely consumed. Poverty trap.

Childcare cap: \$10/hr maximum. Not means-tested. Available universally.

Parental leave: inadequate, not genuinely shared. Fathers rarely take it.

26 weeks per child, 8 weeks reserved non-transferable for each parent. Use it or lose it.

Flexible work: employer discretion. FIFO: standard practice, families separated.

Flexible work: presumed right for parents of children under 12. FIFO as non-default.

Granny flats: council discretion. Most applications refused or delayed for years.

Granny flats as of right nationally. Complying development only. Council cannot refuse.

Mental health after court order removing parent: no automatic support. Suicide risk.

After any contact-reducing order: mental health contact within 14 days. Not optional.

"He has not seen or spoken to his four children for three years. Not because a court heard the evidence and made a finding against him. Because a system that allows ex parte orders, that treats allegations as findings, and has no adequate mechanism for clearing the falsely accused produced its predictable result. He is not claiming he is perfect. He is claiming the system is broken." — MMP Federal Platform

★ VOTE 1 — BRETT MURRELL — FARRER — SATURDAY 9 MAY 2026 ★