

SHARED PARENTING IS BEST FOR CHILDREN

Position:

- FAMILY FIRST believes the first question we must always ask is: What is in the best interests of the child? FAMILY FIRST believes that, when a relationship breaks down, shared parenting is the best outcome, because children can continue to have a real father and mother;
- FAMILY FIRST does not believe the current system of care for children is working and a new system is needed.
- FAMILY FIRST is concerned that only two and a half per cent of Family Court orders allow children to have equal time with both parents after a relationship breakdown. That means that, in almost 98 per cent of cases, a child will effectively lose one of their parents after a court decision;
- FAMILY FIRST does not believe in forcing parents to exercise shared parenting. But FAMILY FIRST hopes that all parents would want to. Just because a relationship ends does not mean the job of parenting ends.

Actions:

- FAMILY FIRST introduced amendments in 2006 to ensure shared parenting is the norm and will continue to lobby for that outcome;
- FAMILY FIRST will continue to advocate for children to have equal access to both their parents as they did when their parents were together.