To whom it may concern,

I am providing my feedback for the Review of the Family Law System.

I agree with the following proposals.

Proposals: 2.4, 2.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.7, 3.9, 3.15, 3.17, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.10, 5.11, 6.1, 6.3, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.8, 6.9, 6.12, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9, 7.11, 8.1, 8.4, 8.6, 8.7, 9.6, 10.2, 10.3, 10.5, 11.1, 11.7.

Comments on the proposals:

3.1: having the legal wording simplified will allow people to understand what the law is actually stating and what it means. Often we have clients who misunderstand the law.

3.3: by placing safety first parents will then take into consideration whether their child is actually safe, that needs to be a first and major consideration.

3.7: by simplifying the language people will understand what that means. Clients that we have are sometimes confused by what the term parental responsibility means and what that involves.

4.1 and 4.3: Having a Family Hub would be a great idea. Often we have to send clients to other businesses to receive more support. If all these facilities were in one location people would not have to go all around town to access these. Sometimes clients do not want to go to the effort of accessing support as it is often difficult to go to another business.

5.7: is a good idea as there will be a major detriment to a party if they have not made frank and full disclosures. This will discourage them from hiding information.

6.9: having a support service for parents will allow them to know better what is expected of them in mediation, it can also inform them on what the limitations of mediation are and what mediation can achieve. We sometimes have clients who come in expecting mediators to do a certain thing, e.g. give legal advice, when we cannot. Clients having the information before they come in will stop people coming in with false expectations, and will avoid them wasting their time.

7.7: while it is good for children to have the option to express their views, in some cases it may better that they do not. Factors may include age, mental capacity.

7.11: children at any stage should have their voices heard. The only issue that we are currently facing in FDR is that there is a cost involved with speaking to the children, a cost that a lot of parents are not willing to pay. If these fees were included in the process then a lot more parents will be open to the children being spoken to.

I disagree with proposals 3.11, 3.19

All other proposals I neither agree or disagree.

Thank you,

**Jason Kirkpatrick**

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***We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which***

***we gather and pay our respects to elders past, present and future*.**