

FAMILY LAW REVIEW

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ARTICLES

Comment on the 2015 report of the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Child Support Program – *Maria Vnuk, Bruce Smyth and Tempe Archer*

On 27 March 2014, the then Minister for Social Services, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, asked the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs to inquire into and report on the Australian Child Support Program. Some 16 months later (20 July 2015), following an extensive public consultation process, the Committee tabled its report and concluded that the Child Support Program was “generally functioning as intended”. In this article, the authors: (a) examine the background and political undercurrents to the Inquiry; (b) consider the scope of the Inquiry’s Terms of Reference; (c) review the sources of the written and oral submissions; and (d) examine the Committee’s recommendations. It is argued that while many of the recommendations look sensible and have merit, there is likely to be little capacity or political will to act on the recommendations in the current economic and political environment. 155

Reconceptualising the treatment of “notional” assets in property settlement proceedings – *Richard Ingleby*

This article discusses how the concept of marriage as a partnership could be combined with the *Stanford* emphasis on legal and equitable interests to provide a new way to approach the treatment of notional assets in proceedings for property adjustment. 168

PROFESSIONAL INSIGHTS

The Notice of Risk: Why it is important and how to complete it – *Joe Harman*

A Notice of Risk is now required to be filed with all applications for parenting orders in the Federal Circuit Court. This article discusses the importance of the Notice of Risk in raising issues of family violence or child abuse, and the requirement for it to be filed in all matters. It also provides guidance as to how to complete the notice effectively. 171

CHILDREN AND PARENTING

Who is a parent and why does it matter? – *Felicity Bell*

This article first examines the possible distinction drawn between parents and non-parents when it comes to assessing a child’s best interests under s 60CC of the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth). The decision of the Full Court in *Burton v Churchin* suggests that parents and non-parents must be treated differently in decisions about parenting. Second, the article discusses who may be considered to be a parent under the *Family Law Act* and under the *Child Support (Assessment) Act 1989* (Cth), and the problematic disjuncture between legal, social and biological parenthood. 177

CHILD SUPPORT

Informality in child support litigation – *Simon Bacon*

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