

## KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

In today's increasingly multicultural Australian society, of very real concern to separated parents is the threat of child abduction by the other parent.

As such Clarissa Rayward of Brisbane Family Law Centre has welcomed today's joint announcement by the Attorney-General and the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs that new measures will be introduced to strengthen Australian laws dealing with this issue.

"Australia has a strong record of support for the Hague Convention in assisting the return of children to their home country. It is only fitting that all possible steps be taken to prevent the trauma of child abduction for Australian families", Ms Rayward said.

Proposed changes include allowing the Family Law Courts to suspend child support payments for parents who abduct their children and adding new criminal offences under the *Family Law Act* to include the wrongful retention of a child overseas.

Such changes will make it easier for children to be returned to Australia and will deter parents from fleeing overseas with their children in the first place.

Ms Rayward regards any Government action taken to safeguard children's and parents' rights as a step in the right direction and eagerly awaits the drafting of new legislation for introduction to Parliament in early 2012 implementing the



The footer contains a black banner with white and red text. On the left, the logo for Brisbane Family Law Centre (BFLC) is displayed, featuring the letters 'BFLC' in a stylized orange font, the words 'BRISBANE FAMILY LAW CENTRE' in bold black and red text, and a small icon of a family. To the right of the logo is a brick wall graphic with the text 'START YOUR NEW LIFE WITH US' in yellow. Below the brick wall is the website address 'www.brisbanefamilylawcentre.com.au'. On the far right, contact information is listed: '10 Albion Road, Albion Qld 4010', 'Ph: 07 3862 1955', 'Fx: 07 3862 1255', and 'info@bflc.com.au'. Below this is the name 'Director: Clarissa Rayward BA LLB' and the ABN number 'ABN 17 130966317'. At the bottom of the banner, a red line of text reads 'a SPECIALIST FAMILY LAW FIRM focusing on collaborative law, mediation and out of Court dispute resolution'.

**BRISBANE FAMILY LAW CENTRE**

**BFLC**

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[www.brisbanefamilylawcentre.com.au](http://www.brisbanefamilylawcentre.com.au)

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Albion Qld 4010  
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Fx: 07 3862 1255  
[info@bflc.com.au](mailto:info@bflc.com.au)

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Family Law Council's recommendations in this regard.

Please contact Brisbane Family Law Centre on 07 3862 1955 or by email [info@bflc.com.au](mailto:info@bflc.com.au) with any inquiries.

Issued 19 September 2011