

# 1. Policies and Procedures for a safer society

## 1.1 *The question of family, children, education, abuse and behaviour*

Some new policies and approaches are urgently required if we are really serious about solving some of the most pressing social, cultural, economic, legal and educational problems.

The increasing frequency of family related problems, not just with kids involved in drugs, drinking, and other violence, but also with parenting, domestic violence and abuse etc. there needs to be a fresh look at who is supposed to do what and how to get the proper training to do it.

For far too long parents have been held responsible to do a job for which they do not get any training or qualification.

We seem to expect them to do a perfect job in not only maintaining their kids economically, and providing them with a secure environment, but also to educate them, control their behaviour, etc.

Not only are parents not being trained to be parents, but there seems to be no test whatsoever to determine whether a person or a couple are suitably qualified to become parents in the first place. We need to go through rigorous tests to get a licence just to drive a car, but we don't seem to pay much attention to find out if a person or a couple are suitably qualified to raise the most precious commodity in society – children.

We make laws about **operational health and safety** in the work-place, we institute quality control measures for any industry that produces any product intended to be consumed by society at large, but we don't have anything in place to make sure that the children being produced are being produced under any kind of quality control, surveillance, and testing. It seems that just about anyone can produce children and there is no one interested in how this is done and by whom or how many; or how they are packaged, stored, distributed, marketed and so on. Why is that so? In this connection our laws about “privacy” may need to be revisited too. Why should it be that an inspector can walk into a hamburger shop and demand to be shown how the meat is kept and cooked, but he can't go into a home to inspect how the kids live, and what they keep in their room? We already have the privacy to go to the bathroom and to bed at night, and that should be enough. Anything else that involves the safety, the security, and the interests of society as a whole should never be “privatised” in the first place.

Why don't we have a degree or at least a training course for all intended parents-to-be, just as we have a training course for anyone who wants to become a nurse, an engineer, a plumber and so on. Are children less important than our toilet and our drains?

On the legal side, why is it that a child, once born, is thought to “belong” to the mother and/or the father. If we look at the process by which the child comes into existence, the parents do hardly anything at all – they just have some sex and that's it! Mother Nature does the rest. The parents have no say in that process whatsoever. They cannot determine if it is going to be male or female, good or bad, heavy or light, etc. Then why is it that there is this (mistaken) idea that “he is my child, I made it”. I am sorry mom, but you were just a vessel, an instrument, used by Mother Nature in this mysterious process we have come to take for granted but about which we know nothing at all.

In short, when a child is born, he or she should be automatically proclaimed to belong to the society in which it has been born and who will eventually serve him or her and to which he or she owes its due. As it is now, the parents are expected to feed it, clothe it, and pay for all its expenses for education, etc etc. On the other hand, when he or she goes to work and earns a living, he or she is expected to pay taxes to a society that never contributed anything to its upbringing. The parents get nothing for their efforts! How crazy and unjust is that?

Therefore, we have to revisit our lawmaking process and relieve parents of this enormous responsibility of bringing up a child for eighteen long years. To be sure, anyone who wants to take on that responsibility should be able to do so, but only if seen fit to do so by society – ie the license to do so. The child nonetheless does not “belong” to them but to society – they can choose to “take

care” of the child and should be paid to do so, just as the so-called child-carers are getting paid now to offer their services.

### 1.1.1 **Actions /Laws to be implemented:**

1. Issue all marriage celebrants (civil and religious) with a requirement that they are not to marry anyone without proof of the couple having completed the prerequisite course of training.
2. Require all education providers (from primary schools to university level) to provide compulsory courses in parenting and “partner maintenance”.<sup>1</sup>
3. Create a department of Child Protection and Supervision responsible to maintain a database of all kids born in their region (area and density of population can be a factor in determining how large the organization is to be) and to keep records of progress towards becoming a useful member of society.
4. Issue all newlyweds with a booklet explaining that although the state has agreed to the union and the possible creation of new members of society (children), the parents remain, nonetheless, the guardians of such children (not the absolute owners). That at any time the authorities consider that the safety, personal growth, health, prospects, etc of the child/ children has /have been compromised, the state has the express authority to remove the child/ children from the home and place them in a suitable environment where the aforementioned aspects may be better realized.
5. An allowance, commensurate with the wages of any other professional engaged in the production of wealth in society, shall be provided to parents who agree to raise the child /children which satisfy all the parameters set down by the state – **or**
6. A promissory note shall be issued to all parents who agree to undertake the task of raising a child /children in accordance with all the parameters set down by the state, indicating that once that child/ children commence work in society, the parents shall be reimbursed expenses deemed to have been invested in that child during its upbringing.
7. The privacy laws shall be amended to the degree necessary so that no one will have the right to claim privacy in matters that are considered to be of public/social safety, security, interest, etc.
8. Create a new system/ department whose task will be to provide all the facilities deemed to be necessary for the personal development, education, and wellbeing of any child removed by the authorities from the (unsuitable) “family” environment. This is not a prison or a detention centre – it may just be another household, or a state-run complex like a permanent camp etc.

Further contact;  
Jim Scarano  
Phone: 02 9875 1912  
Mobile: 0414 391537

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<sup>1</sup> Partner maintenance means the ability to keep a partner happy and satisfied without resorting to violence, abuse, force, and mistreatment of any kind. In other words, have some training in human relationships, communication, self-awareness, as well as other-awareness. No person should be able to hide under the blanket of the privacy laws to justify abuse, mistreatment, force, etc. The only privacy any one is really allowed to have is when they go to the bathroom or to bed at night.