

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT —
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO FAMILY LAW AND CHILD SUPPORT**

Statement

HON COLIN TINCKNELL (South West) [9.45 pm]: I will be very brief indeed tonight. I note that today in federal Parliament the government agreed to a joint parliamentary inquiry into family law and child support. This subject is very dear to not only my heart but also our party's heart. I want to congratulate the federal government for its decision.

I have made speeches on this subject in here before. It is a tough subject. There are many different angles from which people can come. However, as I said, I congratulate the federal government because there have been issues with family law, the breakdown of marriages and access to children by parents, grandparents and other family members. The complete breakdown of this system has caused many deaths—up to three suicides a day and up to one murder a week. This has been going on for years. I have great hopes that this inquiry will help the government and Parliament to look at a very serious issue in our society and alleviate some of the domestic violence that takes place because of family breakdown. I hope the inquiry has a broad-ranging scope so it can really get to the bottom of some of these issues. The problems in the system have been growing in our society since the 1970s. It seems to have become unstuck. It does not seem to be working well and it is causing more misery for families. I am very proud that the federal government was brave enough to take this on. It is not an easy issue. I congratulate and I wish the federal government and federal parliamentarians the best in their endeavours to uncover and find solutions and to put recommendations to Parliament. Hopefully the inquiry's recommendations will be followed through to help the Australian society. Yes, I think it has been a good day for the Parliament.