

Start here.

Laws regarding relationship breakdown first appeared with the marriage Act 1961 & most just stated that marriage was for life so you'd better have a good reason!

Now days there are different types of relationships & many different stages. Laws will try & regulate this but will always be a step behind.

In a relationship breakdown both parties must be looked after & property must be evenly divided & pre-nups in the case of a divorce must be honoured. The child/children (if any) must have arrangements made for them to be able to see both parents & not be exposed to any harm. There is alot to think about & until recently the law had not been very effective. Recent changes to laws going up from the family law Act 1975 to the reform act 1995 to the 2004 Amendment & 2006 Amendment to family laws has made the law better & prepared to deal with breakdowns of relationships.

In De Facto relationships (those together for 2 years + & living together & seen as a couple) a couple was protected & provisions were to be made about

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assets upon the breakdown. Any children had together would have similar arrangements made as if the couple were married. In fact that's generally how they were seen, as a married status. Same gender couples recently received the same de facto status. It's the closest to marriage they can get & allows much the same things except when dealing with children. Before amendments were made though they could not even achieve a de facto status & so after a relationship breakdown, would receive no help in dividing assets or possible benefits, like trying to help ~~the~~ them find work if the other partner was previously the provider.

The law now recognises all these different types of relationship & also most roles within them such as stay at home parents. That member of the relationship would have a higher chance at receiving custody of the child. But having not worked & having little right to the combined money assets of the relationship may need to find work & that isn't very easy in that situation & so short term benefits are provided.

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Effectiveness of the law in achieving justice is now better than ever & actually ~~also~~ being quite effective.

You may ask for an extra Writing Booklet if you need more space.