



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**The Twelve Point Plan, created by the Fathering Forum,**  
to strengthen and support Australian fathers,  
will be launched by Mr Mark Latham, Federal Labor MP.  
The Hon Larry Anthony, Minister for Children & Youth Affairs and  
Senator Paul Calvert, President of the Senate  
will also speak to the policy document.

**10 am, Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2003 in Room 1R5, Parliament House, Canberra**

The Twelve Point Plan is the first major initiative for fatherhood at Parliament House, Canberra. It points the way forward for the restoration of fatherhood for Australia. On 10<sup>th</sup> February 2003, over 35 people, representing many organisations, gathered for the inaugural National Fathering Forum organised by the Fatherhood Foundation, at Parliament House, Canberra. Delegates came at their own cost with the common goal to strengthen and support Australian fathers and 'to turn the tide of fatherlessness' that exists in Australia.

The forum delegates who presented papers are united by the common belief that fatherlessness and family breakdown are major social problems in Australian society. The Twelve Point Plan was agreed upon by a consensus of the delegates. (View this document at [www.fathersonline.org](http://www.fathersonline.org) after release) This policy document is the first of many proposals to promote discussion and contribute to a coordinated national solution to turn the tide of fatherlessness.

Research indicates that boys from fatherless homes are five times more likely to commit suicide, fourteen times more likely to commit rape, nine times more likely to drop out of high school, ten times more likely to abuse chemicals and twenty times more likely to end up in prison. Fatherlessness is estimated to cost Australia in excess of thirteen billion dollars per year.

The Fatherhood Foundation would like to thank the Hon Paul Calvert, President of the Senate. Without his kind support the Fathering Forum would not have achieved its current status. We also commend parliamentarians from different parties in both Houses who supported the National Fathering Forum Open Session by their attendance and input on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2002. We invite further comment and look forward to the National Fatherhood Conference to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> August 2003 in Federal Parliament with a National Fatherhood Summit to be held August 2004.

Warwick Marsh & Richard Yiap  
Convenors – Fathering Forum  
0418 225 212 or 0407 779930

*Inspiring fathers – Renewing families*

Fatherhood Foundation – Non profit Inc No: 9877518 ABN 635 630 20 918  
PO Box 440, Wollongong NSW 2520 Tel: 02 4272 6677 Fax: 02 4272 9100  
Email: [info@fathersonline.org](mailto:info@fathersonline.org) Website: [www.fathersonline.org](http://www.fathersonline.org)