

# The Advertiser

Letters

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3 September 2015

THE Australian Association of Social Workers finds the suggestion from Minister for Child Protection Reform John Rau of “separating the roles of supporting struggling parents and investigating and removing children at risk” to be worth considering.

One of the most complex challenges of child protection work is to develop a relationship with parents that motivates and encourages them to change, while at the same time holding the authority to condemn their attempts.

Parents find it very hard to trust someone with both those roles and so change for the children’s sake may not occur.

If this separation of roles did occur it would be important to make sure both sides communicated well and did not become polarised into positive and negative.

(Dr) MARY HOOD, SA Branch President, Australian Association of Social Workers, Hindmarsh.