
SUBMISSION

Fix the system!

I accepted a divorce settlement that favoured my ex-wife after her lawyers argued I had a greater earning capacity. We have always maintained 50:50 care of our three children. She re-partnered and has chosen to work very few hours. She kept the family home which is now an investment property. She rents it out to provide an extra income stream. In the last 12 months she has taken three trips overseas. Recently, she spent three weeks on the Great Barrier Reef.

I remained single, have a large mortgage that will not be paid off until long after I retire, and work long hours to keep my head above water. I currently earn \$60,000-\$70,000 a year. Her income estimate is \$30,000. I have to pay her \$458 a month because she chooses not to work full time. That is \$5,400 a year, or nearer to \$7,500 pre tax dollars. I struggle. It just seems unfair. Had I realised I was going to have to support her I would have fought longer for a fairer divorce settlement! I probably be no worse off reducing my own hours and increasing my welfare entitlements.

SOLUTIONS

I support the following principles for child support. No child support if care is equally shared. Child support should be based on realistic costs. Illegal activity should not be rewarded.