

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No. 498

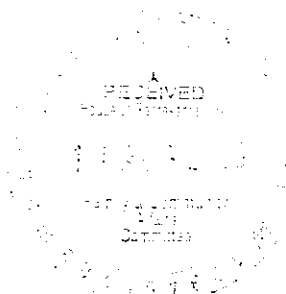
Date Received: 11-8-03

Secretary:

Huon Street,
TALLONG 2579

5th August, 2003.

The Committee,
Family Matters and Custody,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA 6000



Dear Sir,

I submit the following for the deliberation of your Committee and wish to give evidence before you at an appropriate date and place.

It is not intended at this stage to make an affidavit verifying as is usual in legal submissions. However, I am prepared to give such evidence on oath if required on matters pertinent to your investigation.

I enclose a copy of our RSL Newsletter which covers certain matters you are considering. I hastily assure you that these are my own statements and not those of any organisation of which I am a member.

I have been involved in many organisations concerning the welfare of children and am the father of eight children and twenty four grand-children and three great-grand-children.

I would like to discuss with your committee the transfer of sections or their omission from the Matrimonial Causes Act to the Family Law Act.

The sections which should have been included in the Family Law Act are conspicuous by their absence. I refer to Justice Selby asking for thoughts on the welfare of children. I also remember that the uniform divorce legislation instigated by Justice Joske was excellent, after repeated variations from the 1959 Act. The question of child custody is not so obvious easy as our Prime Minister has referred to you. Children need more than going from parent to parent. I feel the question of access should take over here. The question of maintenance also arises under these circumstances. It is felt that the matters of today's economics is blurring the provisions, or lack of them of the Family Law Act. This in turn is detrimental to the children.

I would appreciate the opportunity of interceding.

Yours faithfully,

R.A.J. Arneman

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