

Forbes, Bev (REPS)

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House of Representatives Standing Committee
 on Family and Community Affairs

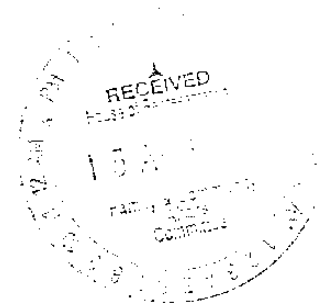
Submission No: **599**

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Secretary:

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**Committee Secretary,
 Standing Committee on Family
 and Community Affairs,
 Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry,
 Department of the House of Representatives,
 Parliament House,
 Canberra, ACT, 2600,
 Australia.**



Submission to inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation

I was brought up with a high set of values, moral, responsibility, fairness and work ethic. I worked 60 – 70 hours per week to support my family and to secure our future. I was hoping that my children would gain the education that I never had and have more fruitful lives than myself. I had wonderful hopes and aspirations. But in 1989 my wife separated from me and took the children. I sought legal advised and was advised that because I was the breadwinner and she was on home duties that I did not have a right to joint custody unless she agree. I had to settle for an every second weekend dad. I was not even allowed to have any say in my children's education or how they should be brought up. I was given court orders that took away my parenthood right and had to pay exurbanite amounts of money in legal fees and child support.

The worst was yet to happen, was when my children were taken from Melbourne to Cairns as my ex wife went on a holiday and met a new partner in there. Once again I could not stop my children been taken interstate and limiting my role to twice yearly access and shouldering additional cost of access on me.

My children are now strangers to me and the toll on my health causes me to take medication for a variety of stress related illnesses. My innocents has been taken away and my children's prospects have been denied as they never received a good education and ended dropping out of school in year 11 and with poor ethics and morals. As for me I an alienated from my emotions as the scares are deeply embedded. Our society has fallen in decay and the very foundations of strong family units have been destroyed.

Recommendations

1. For a content society the government should ensure that fair shared parenting is mandatory and that the children are not denied the rights of seeing one side of a family whether it is the father or

mother.

2. Children should not be able to be taken more than 50km from the matrimonial home unless both parties agree.
3. That child support is abolished and the children can benefit by share equal time with both the parents.
4. That both parents are encouraged to take an active part in their children's lives and if a conflict does arise couple should be encouraged to settle the matter themselves as they did in marriage. If in the event that they cannot resolve an issue that they can seek help from informal or formal mediation.

Family law has eroded contentment, values, democracy and stolen the innocents of children that will surly affect generations to come as our children from divorced families. They would not know the bliss, democracy, contentment and pride in our country that once was in their parent's lives and their grandparents. Many of our forefathers have died in wars for their children to endure a safe and prosperous country. How they must look down from the heaven to see the shame our government, policy makers and judiciary system have abused.