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Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs  
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry  
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House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
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Project Family Welfare is a self-funded organisation whose members advocate for and deal with all issues pertaining to children, people with disabilities and families. Currently, PFW is researching the effects of family breakdown on children. Accordingly, this submission will outline factors to be implemented in the near future.

1. Sensitive, caring, competent parents will always attend to emotional situations involving children and parents.
2. The implementation of '1' above will fall within a basic wage structure. Similarly, in no case will parents or children be, detrimentally or financially affected to any great degree.
3. Within the guidelines of "1 and 2" above, at all times will family harmony and unity be encouraged. At no time will animosity or conflict be exacerbated. Therefore, it is vital to create an atmosphere in which parents will not feel helpless to support their children. PFW research indicates that the present situation predisposes even kind and loving parents to a helpless, victim feeling. Typically, parents are focusing on money for children [eg: CSA, money focused society.] whereas it essential to encourage parents to give 'time' to children. Preferably, 'time' given is most beneficial following 'Effective Parenting Training'. The inclusion of relationship training into secondary schools appears to be a worthwhile primary step.

PFW is using the case of one of its members, namely Joe Wright, as an example of present systemic flaws.

- Joe and Julie were blessed with a beautiful baby girl Marie-Ann.
- Four years later Lisa was born with a profound disability.
- Lisa died aged eleven months.
- Julie suffered severe postnatal depression and suicide attempts.
- Julie left home with Marie-Ann.
- Neil Buckley, Paul McGrath, Mark Ryan, HO, George Hatzis, Craig Pandy and others subsequently commenced the emotional abuse of Marie-Ann.
- Accordingly, Marie-Ann was informed that she could spend limited time with her father providing another person was present.
- Ironically: [I] the illegal signature 'HO' appeared on a contract to facilitate the sale of Marie-Ann's family's property for \$100,000 under market value. [II] Furthermore, public servants had previously concluded that Marie-Ann's father had a sustainable disability because of a paralysis acquired when he was a child. Such an action is a violation of the Disability Services Act and working of the Adult

Guardian Legislation [also see next point regarding Joe's work in the Disability Service. However, it is more than evident that Joe is now extremely physically fit and mentally capable. Indeed, when Marie-Ann was in nappies Joe cared for her full time by himself. [III] Despite prior advice given to necessary authorities in 1999, Marie-Ann was allowed to travel through USA and Canada with her father without the presence of another person.

- In 1997, under the guise of the adversarial system, Joe Wright commenced employment caring for people with a disability, who have 'high support needs' and 'challenging behaviour'. Subsequently, in 1998 David Morgan – Centrelink Compliance- made contact with Joe re his disability payment.
- After Mr.Morgan was advised of the nine above points he made no further contact.
- 2001: Amanda Fitch – CIB – accuses Joe Wright of fraud. Following a failed interview and advice of 1 – 10 of the above points Fitch made no further contact.
- In addition, Philippa Whitman – Lawyer (Department of the Adult Guardian) who attended the interview with Joe, concluded after a half an hour conversation with Joe, that Joe had a 'high functional capacity' [letter available on request].
- Many politicians, legal professionals, and other high-ranking officials have been advised of the above with no adequate response. NB: the emotional abuse of children in the above way follows the recent events of the 'Stolen Generation'. Clearly some Public Servants are slow to learn. To encourage Public Servants to not make the same mistakes, to help repair the damage done to Marie-Ann and to avoid massive media attention it will be necessary for a sum of \$7,500,000 to be deposited into the bank account of John Joseph Wright, an apology made to Marie-Ann from the Prime Minister or the Attorney General, and an assurance given that no child will be treated in this way in the future. Accordingly, public servants and private practitioners will be reticent to demonstrate such abhorrent and indiscriminate behaviour in the future.

In order to adequately discuss the important aspects of dealing with children and families, we would envisage that a national summit should be held immediately.

The scenario described above exemplifies the difficulty and financial corruption within a system that has the responsibility to address the needs of children and to encourage family unity.

In the above situation, even after he admitted fraud and corruption and willingness to repay the system, following a full payment of financial losses incurred and emotional damages sustained, Joe has been unable to protect his family against indiscriminate and unscrupulous actions by public servants and private practitioners.

Clearly, it is imperative that children are not treated as objects, people do not capitalise on family misfortune, and the needs of families are fully catered for. It

would be appropriate to appoint people with integrity to guide family issues. It should be noted that some public servant(s) feels guilty, incriminated, and unable to address the inconsistencies and violation of the Disability Services Act in the case of the Wright family. Therefore, there is hope that a well-run summit will adequately address the needs of children, resulting in a higher quality of life and a more productive and moral society.

Indeed, those people, whose behaviour we should be able to emulate, will rise again from their frequent immoral behaviour, which lacks a degree of integrity.

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