

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No:

1208

Date Received:

12-8-03

Secretary:

12/08/2003

Mrs: Kay HULL,

RE: CHILDCARE CUSTODY ENQUIRY

I am Writing to submit my views to the above enquires.

In 2002 my wife left me and took with her our son and daughter. They have settled approximately 300 km's from where I live.

I wish to complain about the current system, which is unfair and discriminatory against men. Although I did not break the law, I have lost custody of my children, I have rarely get custody of them or visit with them, yet I must pay around \$ 10.925 (420.23 per fortnight) pa in child support.

On the other hand, my wives has custody of the children, receives payments from centrelink, receives child support from me and enjoy other government benefits of a single parent.

Why is it that the system rewards women who leaves their husband with custody of the children and with many financial benefit while at the same time penalising the husband though lack of custody and by way of financial obligations.

I believe, I would have a better standard of living if I left work and went on centrelink benefits. I would be just as well off because I would no longer have to pay neither \$16.884 pa in tax nor the \$10.925 pa. in child support.

Please consider changing the current system, which presumes that the woman should normally have custody of the children and penalises the men party in term of custody and financial responsibilities. The system just rewards women who are not prepared to stand by their marriage vows.