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House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
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Secretary:	

The Secretary
Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra
A.C.T. 2600



I wish to put forward a submission to be considered by your committee in regards to the recommendations you have been asked to make.

- 1) that the law require only the best interests of the child be taken into account.
- 2) that the child's wishes under the age of 14 not be considered. They are easily influenced at this age and the way it is currently conducted leaves itself open to suspicion.
- 3) legal aid funding has to be more accountable and subjected to a greater scrutiny for bias.
- 4) do not presume that children will spend equal time with both parents. Parents on the main divorce because they no longer want to be together. This usually is not by joint agreement, one party is the one who decides, the other party is aggrieved and tensions run high and hatred simmers for a long time. This hatred will always be an issue between the parties as far as who gets the children and when can the other party see them.
- 5) it may be seen as sexist but in the long term future of the child, where each parent presents equal that boys may be better living with their fathers and girls with their mothers. There are many things in this life that only fathers can teach their sons and likewise mothers their daughters.
- 6) where one party has been given the privilege of raising their child by the court, and that person fails to adhere to the contact orders it should not be left up to the parent being denied contact to have to take action for "failing to comply with a child order". You can be assured that when it breaks down to this level the child will be made aware of the fact that "Daddy is taking Mummy to Court "I use this phrase as less than 20% of fathers have residency of their children.

7) The legal system itself needs to be overhauled. At the moment if you lodge a complaint against a Judge it is investigated by a fellow Judge. This leaves the Judiciary open to self assessment and even worse **COVER UP**. Lawyers are immune from suit so to are counsellors within the Family Law Court System, where a person knows they can say what they like without the threat of being sued and they have your children in a closed room without you anything can be made up. They can so easily lead a child into saying what they want to hear. They are also the ones who decide where your child shall live. So if they take a dislike to you or the mother claims any form of domestic violence even if it has never taken place, then you can be guaranteed of losing your children.

8) in regards to child support you currently have a body that when dealing with the people involved are machine like. The statutes are there and they will enforce them.

9) in so far as payments are concerned, while I agree that child support has to be paid there seems to be little thought given to financial aspect of the paying parent. It can be devastating to the paying parent, more thought needs to be given to making the percentage payable on his after tax income. The system already takes \$10.00 a fortnight from pensioners and unemployed, hardly people who can afford it and will probably do it tough to ensure their children have a good time when they see them.

In closing I asked to be allowed to address this committee in person so as to be given the opportunity to expand and provide documented proof of statements I have made. I have been through this system and can assure you that unless changes are made to ensure equality in ten years time the situation will probably be even more biased against fathers.

I await your reply in this matter.

Yours Sincerely


N.C. INGERSOLE J.P.