

From: Dawn Staggard [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 8 August 2003 2:59 PM  
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)  
Subject: Inquiry into child custody.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
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Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs  
Child Custody Arrangements Enquiry  
Department of House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Facs: 02 6277 4844  
Email: [fca.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:fca.reps@aph.gov.au)

**INQUIRY INTO CHILD CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS IN THE EVENT OF FAMILY SEPARATION**

Dear Committee Members

In what circumstances a court should order that children of separated parents have contact with other persons, including their grandparents.

I am a grandparent who has very limited access to our eight year old grandson and this has been the case since the child was less than two years of age.

The father of the child is our son.

I make the following points in support of a more equitable access arrangement that would be beneficial to the child.

- \* My husband is the only "blood" grandfather that the child has and he is unable to form close ties with his grandson.
- \* We can only see our grandson when he is with his father and we are reluctant to take any of that time away from them.
- \* We would like our own access time in addition to that which our son has.
- \* Limited access by our son and ourselves means that our grandson has little time to develop friendships and trust with us as grandparents.
- \* A more equitable access arrangement would allow our grandson to "bond" with his aunts, uncles and cousins on his father's side of the family.
- \* As a retired School Teacher (after teaching for 33 years), I am fully aware of the social problems that can arise in adolescents who have limited access to one parent and even less access to their grandparents.

Yours sincerely,  
Dawn Staggard  
77 Fairview Avenue  
NEWTOWN 3220  
Victoria  
Ph. [REDACTED]  
email: [REDACTED]