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Secretary:  
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Committee Secretary

Standing Committee of Family and Community Affairs

Child Custody Arrangement Inquiry

3 Palamuna Close,

Belmont North 2280

6/8/2003

Dear Committee members:

In response to the Child custody inquiry I would like to give my inputs as follow:

- Given that vast majority of separated parents are law abiding and decent people caring for their children; the child's access must be given to both parents equally so that the child can receive same affection and upbringing.
- The existing child support formula provides too much incentive (such as single parent allowance, family benefit, child support etc) for a mother to isolate her children from their father. Current government policies and regulations for child access were well intended but the end results were not always what they were supposed to achieve. To achieve the best result for children with separated parents government policy must cater for vast majority of population and not for some extreme minority cases. The extreme cases such as domestic violent and child abuse must be dealt with separately.
- Many fathers could not get sufficient access to their children and in some cases, lost contact with their children completely. The long-term effect of a child not able to see his/her own natural father will be profound.
- It should be a mandatory for equal access of children from the separated parents. Arrangement may be made between the parents to access their children on alternative day, week fortnight, month, 6 months or yearly basis. Another suggestion is for a mother to have her children between Monday to Friday and father to access his children from Friday after work and drop his children off on Monday morning. In addition, the father can further access his children on Public holidays and school holiday so that the father can have a normal working life and still provide care for his children. The amount of time the children spent with their parents does not have to be absolutely equal; flexibility should be provided to suit the life style of each individual case.
- Child support scheme where father has to provide money to mother after their separation must be abolished. This will provide incentive for a father to spend a large amount of the time with their children.

Thank you for your kind attentions

Yours Faithfully

Allen Chang