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Thursday, June 19, 2003

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No.: 1329

Date Received: 19-8-03

Secretary:

R.H. Mr John Howard
Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

I read with great interest the article in today's Sydney Morning Herald 19/6/03 regarding broken homes and the implications it has for children.

As a father from a split home of 9 years, I can speak with a great deal of authority. For men, 'family men' the greatest single motivator for unhappiness is the loss of his children. This unhappiness I'm sure is instrumental in creating grounds for violence.

Special care and consideration needs to be taken in ensuring those men, who are willing and able, have equal rights with child access and care!

In our particular case, we acknowledged our children loved both parents! The fact we as parents couldn't live together should not have impacted further on our children.

I have my own business and certainly I was in a space to be able to care equally and this is what we did. Similar to the SMH article, our children have enjoyed two weeks with each parent or what they themselves have wanted. We have a loving family separated! I think the rewards for those who can override the personal trauma are significant and should be encouraged. Children need both parents. Fathers have a lot to offer! However, men as a rule do not know how to handle these losses and to a large degree I'm sure it's in our genes going back to hunting and gathering days. A mother who was denied the act of 'mothering' would be equally distressed and handle the situation quite differently.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID HOSKINGc.c. Lib. Sen. Jeannie Ferris
Mr M Metherall - SMH