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BY: [REDACTED]

10/9/2003

The Federal Member for Riverina.  
Mrs. Kay Hull.  
Chairman Standing on Family & Community Services  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2006.

House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Family and Community Affairs  
Submission No 1414  
Date Received 19-9-03  
Secretary

Dear Mrs Hull,

I read with interest Sarah  
Hendersons' column in the Melbourne Herald  
Sun dated 10/9/2003

I am writing as a grandmother.  
Two of my grandchildren find themselves  
through no fault of their own in a very  
unhappy lifestyle.

It is my wish that when you do  
your report you look at it from the eyes of the  
child. In lots of cases the child is the pawn  
in the middle. As in our case the Father

wants more & more at the cost of his childrens' happiness.

The 8 year old boy clearly doesn't enjoy going to Dads'. He screams, locks himself in the car or house and refuses to come out. He sees a physiologist to try to teach him to cope with going to his Fathers

These school holidays the children are being forced to spend one week at Dads'. (Dad will be at work so most of the time will be spent with Dads' girlfriend) Wouldn't the children be better off at home where they are happy?

My grandchildren and lots more like them would not cope with shared living arrangements. We would mess up their lives completely. I think the children from the age of 5 years should have a say in their lives as to access.

By the way, this Dad has not payed a cent towards their upkeep for the last year, for all the Dads complaining they pay too much. Just as many are not

Paying at all.

I find it very hard to believe the stories some of these fathers are presenting based on the trouble my daughter is having to get Child Support Agency to collect money owed to her. I don't for one moment feel everything the Mothers Summit is the absolute truth either, in all cases.

My thoughts are for our poor children caught in the middle.

Yours faithfully.

[Redacted signature]