

**Atkin, Margaret (REPS)**

[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 23 November 2003 5:58 PM  
**To:** Committee, FCA (REPS)  
**Subject:** PRINTED MA: Inquiry into child custody arrangements - supp to sub 1150.

House of Representatives Standing Committee  
 on Family and Community Affairs

**Supp.**  
 Submission No: **1712**  
 Date Received: **23-11-03**  
 Secretary: .....

The Committee Secretary  
 Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs  
 Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry  
 Department of the House of Representatives  
 Parliament House Canberra ACT

Dear Secretary,

Some weeks ago I appeared in front of the Inquiry into Child Custody Arrangements when it was held in Adelaide at the northern suburb of Modbury. I was representing the **Australian Association of Infant Mental Health** and stood in for Ms Pam Linke, SA President of that body at short notice.

During the process of making my submission and answering questions from the Inquiry members a number of issues arose and to which I promised to provide further information. My apologies for taking a while to get back to this.

1) One issue was the extent to which there is Australian research to support assertions about the effect on children of contact with parents and more general socio - emotional effects and correlations between this and later behaviour of the children as they grow.

One study I mentioned was by Julie A Quinlivan et al an obstetrician at University of Melbourne. entitled **Post natal home visits in teenage mothers: a randomized controlled trial. The Lancet Vol 361, March 15, 2003**

Another very useful way to access Australian research is through the Australian research Alliance for children and Youth based in Perth [www.aracy.org.au](http://www.aracy.org.au) . The Alliance CEO is Professor Fiona Stanley, also currently Australian of the Year.

As I am sure you are aware and can pass onto the Inquiry members, **The Australian Institute of Family Studies** is well recognised in the field of practice and research as producing valid and reliable studies about Families and children. Their website is [www.aifs.org.au](http://www.aifs.org.au)

2) The second question put to me was whether the Australian Association of Infant Mental Health could provide training for judges about infant and early child mental health. I have canvassed our members and they are very positive about being involved.

The Association's own website is [www.aaimhi.org](http://www.aaimhi.org) and members can be reached through that portal.

I hope this can be of assistance,

Yours sincerely,

Mary Hood PhD  
 Australian Association of Infant Mental Health.  
 (08) 8303 1504  
 [REDACTED]

8/12/2003