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Secretary:

From: danny shub [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 21 July 2003 1:04 AM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: CHILD CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS POST SEPERATION

I am a senior child and adolescent psychiatrist based in Perth, and have been the chairperson of the WA branch of the faculty of child & adolescent psychiatry [auspiced by the Royal Aust & New Zealand College of Psychiatry], as well as being involved in academic training, and various other positions - eg WA rep of Federal Exec of the faculty of child & adolescent psychiatry.
I am happy to provide my CV, and a brief recent article I wrote re the merits of joint shared parenting.

In over 20 years of clinical experience with children [and adults who have reflected upon their childhood] , & confirmed by the academic literature, there is no doubt that equitable, consistent, predictable, quality access to BOTH parents is essential to facilitate normal childhood development.

The family court refuses to acknowledge this - and bases many of its decisions upon the highly illogical paradigm of "precedence". Many of its other models of operation are equally invalid, which I can discuss in detail.
I believe that joint shared parenting should be seriously considered as an option. The court currently rejects this approach to parenting. Circumstances that mitigate against such an approach include geographical factors, & risk of violence between ex-partners.

Grandparents, [and other mentoring individuals] are vital, undervalued resources for childhood development - & should not be divorced from their grandchildren.

The current CSA philosophy /operation needs review. Many men continue to feel excluded from contact with their kids, and have no input in how their funds are applied. A system of accountability is required.

I have much more to say re the current dysfunctional family court system, but have been brief, as requested....

Yours sincerely
DR Danny Shub.

