

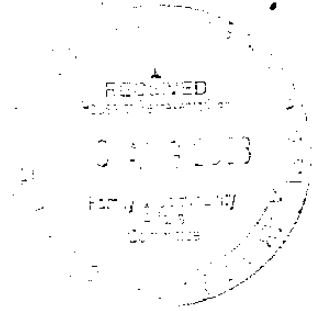
House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Dennis J Brown Submission No: **528** Wednesday 30 July 2003
20 Myrene Ave.
Calala 2340 Date Received: **8-8-03**

Committee Secretary:

Standing Committee on family and Community Affairs
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry
Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia.

Phone: (02) 6761 3080.



Dear Committee Secretary

Further to my letter/submission of the 10 July 2003 I became aware through listening to the Trisha Duffield talk back program on 2SM radio that there is pressure being exerted on the State Government of Queensland and hopefully other states and the Federal Government will follow suite and take up the challenge in the protection of our children.

Apparently the Queensland Government has been covering up child abuse which would suggest that similar problems must exist elsewhere.

They are wanting a Judicial inquiry or Royal Commission into child abuse given that children in foster care are being abused.

I note your terms of reference and that the interests of the child are paramount. Clearly the Family Law Court / Act formula as it stands and has ~~been~~ failed in this area. E.G. The break down of families, the division/separation of families, uninvestigated, unchallenged AVO's based on the bare word of someone.

The Family Court has created a single parent family acceptance as the norm when our social problems today prove that it can never work. It may be that on occasion it is necessary but it should never be seen as the Norm.

Clearly in creating this single parent society there is simply not enough parental influence. In the creation of the single parent family we have in many cases removed the protection from those children. In the first instance, children must feel somewhat unwanted. It maybe they are just left to their own devices or with step parents, the child care centers, foster homes all of which relate to broken homes and in turn our crime problem and children are easy targets as we have handed them over to strangers.

The issues you have raised in terms of your inquiry are serious and you are to be commended for finally making the appropriate decision to investigate what is at the very least a precarious disaster but I believe it needs to go further and include the above issues if we are serious in our efforts to protect our kids.

In closing I watched a film and a little black girl of 9/10 years old had been viciously raped. It was during the time when blacks were treated somewhat badly in America and in the closing speech by the lawyer reexamined in detail the horrible acts that were done to this child and he asked the jury to close their eyes and imagine the horror, the suffering and then to imagine that the child was, " White" Perhaps we could make far better decisions if we closed our eyes and imagined the abused kids were "Ours."

Yours Sincerely

D J Brown JP