

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 570

Date Received: 29-8-03

Secretary:

Mr Laurie Bagnall
C/- Post Office
KULIN WA 6365

PH: [REDACTED]
FX: [REDACTED]
MB: [REDACTED]

7TH August 2003

ATTENTION: TO THE SECRETARY

RE: INQUIRY INTO CHILD CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS IN THE EVENT OF FAMILY SEPARATION.

(A) The best interests of the children. Children to spend equal time with both carers.

FOR: Both carers live close enough that children would not have to change Schools, Doctors etc.

AGAINST: Most carers live hours apart so it just is not possible. Different Schools, Sporting Clubs and Doctors etc.

(B) Grandparents and Family.

1. The payer's family are the big losers.
2. The payee should have to let children see in-laws unless Courts state different.

CHILD SUPPORT FORMULA:

Is the child support formula fair? For a wage earner NO.

1. The payer is trying to get their mind around what has happened.
2. Is informed that they will pay child support.
3. Has to borrow heavily to restart living again (eg: furniture, car etc.)
4. Payer has no control of money being paid out for child support.
5. Child support is exactly that. Child support is supposed to be for the children not for the payee to travel all over the country without the children.

.../2

WAYS TO IMPROVE FORMULA:

1. Base the formula on basic wages so everyone gets a fair go.
2. Bring in vouchers (eg; food, clothes, phone, school etc), so payer knows where money is going.
3. Let payer claim 50% child support payments as Tax Deduction, instead of paying Single Tax.
4. For payee to claim child support they have to submit 50/50 cost to DNA testing.
5. Child support to be reduced when payer meets someone else, as they would help with their new partner's children if any are involved.

IN CONCLUSION:

If payer was given a fairer go:

1. Grandparents and family would see more of the children.
2. There would be a lot less animosity and suicides.

Yours sincerely,

.....
LAURIE BAGNALL