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Secretary: .....

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8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2003  
The Advisory Committee  
Family and Child Parenting Issues  
The Prime Minister's Office  
Canberra ACT



Dear Sir

In regard to the numerous issues arising for all stakeholders following relationship breakdown I wish to submit the following considerations:

1. Shared parenting can greatly reduce the trauma of separation and loss experienced by the children, residential and non-residential parents, grand-parents, other family members and friends. The continuity of a familiar environment, family, friends, and regular educational and care routines, can alleviate the anxiety and insecurity of the children, and allow the parents to resolve other problems arising from the relationship breakdown, in a less stressful way.
2. Joint parenting would allow a more equitable sharing of costs incurred in the care of children, and the provision of necessary resources. Expenses would be based on the true value of each household's needs, rather than the current universal formula, which sees anomalies and deficits in many situations.
3. The cost and need of maintaining a national infrastructure dedicated to retrieving and calculating child support payments would be considerably reduced, thus alleviating demands on government resources and personnel.
4. Lengthy, expensive court hearings and case backlog would be reduced, therefore easing pressure on an already overburdened judicial system.
5. The incidence of parental stress related health problems and suicide, due to separation from children, and inadequate resources, would be considerably decreased

In conclusion, I fully support the committee's enquiry into these issues, and anticipate an imminent, positive outcome.

Margaret Moder- CoOrdinator Grans Vic

Handwritten signature of Margaret Moder in cursive script.