

Forbes, Bev (REPS)

From: Mark Franzi [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 4 August 2003 7:37 PM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: Child custody arrangement

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
Submission No:	1028
Date Received:	4-8-03
Secretary:	

Dear Sir/Madam

I am interested in appearing as a witness in the current inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation. I believe that the terms of reference with respect to this inquiry are very limited given the often complex nature of most separations.

With the Family Court of Australia struggling to cope with the current demands placed on it, I find it difficult to comprehend why the House of Representatives would conduct an inquiry when the basic legal structure is unable to cope.

Having recently separated and been given an interim custody order which amounts to shared care, there are many other more pressing issues that face separated families which I believe should be addressed first.

In response to the growing need for support services within our community I have been able to establish an internet based support service for separated fathers and their families www.dads.net.au

(a) I believe that there should be a presumption that children should spend equal time with each parent, however this will no doubt be contested in most cases. If this does occur, how does the Family Court intend to cope with this added work load?

(b) The existing child support formula does not work, and depends largely upon individuals abiding by any decisions that are made by the court, this rarely happens and it usually means that one of the parents has limited access to their children.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any of these issues in greater detail [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Mark Franzi

