

From: acs Sambell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 7 August 2003 8:15 PM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: submission re inquiry into child custody legislation

Submission No: 1118
Date Received: 7-8-03
Secretary:

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7 August 2003

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have recently experienced a case where a marriage separation was financed by the government including lawyers fees, refuge accomodation and family law judges in a situation where the wife of a separating couple has been able to 'abuse the system' and manipulate the situation in a vindictive manner. The end result being a completely devastated husband who has extremely limited access to his children for no good reason except that his former spouse wants to gain power over the children and spite him.

By using the Legal Aid and accomodation provided for other genuinely needy women in abusive situations the wife has paid very little whereas the husband, over seven thousand dollars in legal fees (and he represented himself for most of family court sessions due to cost). The starting point was that the wife actually just took the children and the husband had to fight from a position of 'no contact' to have any rights to see his children.

I wish to advocate that husband and wife start with a 50/50 sharing of children and adjustment be made from that point.

I commend the committee on their advocacy of this position.

Thankyou for your time reading this letter,

yours sincerely

Alan Sambell.

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