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Thursday, August 28, 2003

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry
Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra A.C.T. 2600

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 1371

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Secretary:

Having raised four children (2 boys and 2 girls) who now range between 22 years and 34 years of age, I feel well qualified to comment on custody matters from a man's point of view.

Far too often it is claimed a mother can love children more then their father can and take better care of them, but in my experience this is not correct.

My youngest child had just turned three years of age when I was granted uncontested custody of him together with his brother and two sisters. As their mother was disinterested in accepting her role in their upbringing, it was necessary for me to try to play both roles of mother and father which I did to the best of my ability.

I have raised my children with all of the love and care I possess and today they are a close-knit group who work together in our family business. My 32-year-old daughter and 22-year-old son still live at home.

There is no question in my mind that children need the input of both a father and mother and lack of it from one or the other has a detrimental effect on them.

Joint custody would in many cases overcome the lack of a balanced parental input and should be implemented where possible.

Sexual equality is demanded by the community at large and is enshrined in both Federal and State laws but it does not in my opinion exist in the administration of family law.

Women and men should be viewed equally in all custody matters and it is time consideration be given to the undeniable fact that many fathers can love and care for their children equally as well as a mother and at times better. I believe I am an example of this.

Thank you for your consideration of the above and if I can provide any further assistance to your inquiry please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

pp Paul Snowsill

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