

Forbes, Bev (REPS)

From: Jeffrey, Emma (J. Anderson, MP)
Sent: Monday, 15 September 2003 4:05 PM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)

Subject: FW: Joint Parenting as a Concerned Father (GWYDIR CONSTITUENT)

House of Representatives Standing Committee
 on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 1477
 Date Received: 15-9-03
 Secretary:

To: THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY (as discussed with Shane 15/09/03)

-----Original Message-----

From: Anderson, John (MP)
Sent: Monday, 15 September 2003 3:36 PM
To: Jeffrey, Emma (J. Anderson, MP)
Subject: FW: Joint Parenting as a Concerned Father

Emma

Just in case you haven't picked this one up. Over to you. thanks

Joy

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 September 2003 11:27 AM
To: Anderson, John (MP)
Subject: Joint Parenting as a Concerned Father

The Hon John Anderson
 Member for Gwydir

Dear Mr. Anderson,

I am a father of a beautiful 8 month old girl, and a proud father at that. From the time [REDACTED] was born, I have cared for her in all aspects of parenting, with the exception of the obvious breast feeding, since birth. My wife and I separated in May, and although we had close to joint residency at first due to amicable agreement, the situation soured and my ex wife denied me custody for a month. One month without being with my child was almost unbearable, to have her and then have her stolen away was the worst, most empty and violating feeling I have ever felt in my life. I love my daughter dearly, and although she is only young, we do have a very strong bond, and I know that separation from her father would have affected her too. My ex wife's reasons for taking my baby away were all personal, she was using [REDACTED] as a weapon against me in order to control. Where is the justice in the laws allowing a mother to have total control over a child and use the child as a pawn? The law is more than allowing this to happen, the law is encouraging this to happen. I am now spending thousands of dollars that could be better spent on [REDACTED] University fund fighting for access to my daughter, fighting for what is my right as a father, fighting for [REDACTED] rights as a child to have a father.

This is not about painful break ups; this is not about personal feelings. This is about the children's rights to both parents. Children who love both their mother and father are being denied one or the other because the current family laws are bias towards mothers and the outcome is more often "winner takes all".

I don't want to deny my child a single thing, and I am not trying to gain sole custody of [REDACTED] she needs both parents equally, I am just trying to be [REDACTED] dad. I have never before in my life felt the intense love for anything that I feel for [REDACTED] It is my responsibility and my right to be a loving parent, and yet, my ex wife can take it all away only because she is [REDACTED] mother and her reasons do not have to be justified. I am pleading to you as a loving father, please get involved in the current debate of joint residence. Please put yourself in my shoes and the shoes of thousands of fathers Australia wide. Even if for 30 seconds, how would you feel if someone tore children away?

Kindest Regards,

[REDACTED]

20/09/2003

