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10 OCT 2003

5:10:03

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
Submission No:	1570
Date Received:	9-10-03
Secretary:	

Dear Parliamentary Inquiry,

Points raised in the issue of an inadequate Child Support System, from an individual view-point include

- ① The necessity for cross-referencing between the Australian Tax Office, Centrelink and Child Support Agencies
- ② Consideration duly given to both partners complete asset pool with the child Support Agency being given subpoena powers to access any financial material.
- ③ The shared care formula where "no one pays." The welfare of the children is of prime concern. All involved should be interviewed from the outset before an assessment is made, with knowledge of the financial picture.
- ④ The question of the self-employed avoiding payments.
- ⑤ Unethical behaviour e.g. lack of integrity and honesty to off-set payments
- ⑥ Training and understanding of emotional issues that clients may be faced with, e.g. intervention orders, separation, legal processes, family breakdown, etc.
- ⑦ Prior history of the family, financial management

My story is one of utter disbelief and disappointment in the whole child support process. On several occasions I have been reduced to tears, anger and frustration, over more than 6 months.

My ex-husband and I are joint land-owners with a property settlement that is proceeding. I am otherwise a low-income earner and cannot access legal aid, sole-parenting and dole payments as a result. Financially, the only asset in my name is a car which I purchased this year from all available savings.

We have 3 children still living at home this year. The initial child support assessment was \$478 per month. My ex-husband, a workaholic, had never cared for the children in any capacity prior to this. Because he had to pay child support, the children were "re-erected" into living with him. Only one of the 3 is now in shared-care. Previously my wages and family tax benefit were used to meet their day-to-day living expenses. My ex-husband has had the ATO return of 2001/2002 adjusted 3 times, after the initial child support assessment, from \$45,000 to \$15,000. Currently he is expected to pay \$25-a-week, back-paid to May. I have not seen any of this money, despite giving the CSA officers of plant and equipment valued at \$300,000, super and shares at \$80,000 and the ability for him to employ 2 full-time workers.

He has consistently lied at every

opportunity and I am left distraught.

Please give due consideration to all of these issues. I am prepared to discuss them at length, any mutual time.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
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P.S. I have raised objection and pursued the process as far as I possibly can.