

**Forbes, Bev (REPS)**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 18 October 2003 7:34 AM  
**To:** Committee, FCA (REPS)  
**Subject:** Child custody

House of Representatives Standing Committee  
 on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: **1631**  
 Date Received: **18-10-03**  
 Secretary: .....

My name is [REDACTED] and I have an 8 year old son. For seven and a half years I have had 13 visits to the family court on various matters just to try to maintain contact with my son. I have been accused of molesting my son and subsequently endured court appointed psychologists necessary investigations and extended periods of supervised contact while the claims were proved false.

My former partner changed my sons name without my knowledge or consent by claiming to the registry that there was indeed no father still living.

I have put up with investigations from the Tax office, Social Security and the police who, acting on "information recieved" were bound to follow it up. Although these people are not permitted to divulge the names of informants, when I mentioned the nature of my relationship to my ex father in law all action ceased and apologies were made.

I could go on and on but Please let me point out that my relationship with my son, [REDACTED], is fabulous, I have never missed contact with him even though, for a time I had to drive 1400kms each second friday just to pick him up from school.

At 8 years he is now beginning to assert his need for more contact and I am currently looking for a house to rent close enough for me to be able to begin shared contact should the law change. I have worked for an agency for the last 7 years because of the problematic nature of contact and his mothers inflexibility- it has allowed me to not work when contact is available.

The point I would most like to make is that while not all fathers would automatically take up the option of shared custody, the fact that both parents would be equally empowered when it came to planning their childrens future would surely force the most recalcitrant parent to the negotiating table rather than into the Family Court.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

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