

Submission No: 24

Date Received: 22-7-03

Secretary:

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

From: joan armstrong [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 20 July 2003 4:10 AM
To: Committee (REPS)
Subject: CHILD CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS INQUIRY

12 Pioneer Road
Umina Beach
N.S.W 2257
19/07/03
[REDACTED]



My name is Joan Armstrong. Since 1995 I have been a volunteer Convenor of a Grandparent Support Group representing Grandparents who through no fault of their own have been denied contact with their Grandchildren. In the past nine years I have had hundreds of phone calls to my home from Grandparents going through this tragic event. Many Grandparents at end of their tether and suffering untold heartache not knowing why they are being treated so unfairly. The calls I have received came from. N.S.W Queensland. South Australia. Western Australia and as far afield as one call from New Zealand. I have also had many calls from Father's not being able to see their own children. I strongly urge the Government to look closely at the laws to overcome this unfair method the Family Court uses to decide who the children spend time with.

(1) I feel that both parents should have shared parenting as rule and the difficult cases sorted out by the Family Courts.

(2) Grandparents should be included in any contact arrangements. The best interest of the child being paramount in all cases.

I can be contacted on the above address or phone numbers for any other comments. JOAN ARMSTRONG (Mrs)

[REDACTED]
On the Central Coast of New South Wales, Australia.