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House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
Submission No:	<u>352</u>
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Secretary:	_____

08 94145702

6th August, 2003

**RE: SUBMISSION TO THE CHILD CUSTODY
ARRANGEMENTS INQUIRY**



To whom it may concern,

I thank you for this opportunity to submit this letter to you concerning the total lack of consideration to the Paying Parent formula that is Child Support.

A brief history of my circumstances are as follows:

I separated from my ex wife in June 2001 and we have 3 children from the marriage being 12 years, 9 years and 6 years of age. Over the past 2 years there has been a very drawn out process over custody arrangements, court proceeding and settlement.

In January 2002, I applied to child support to have my assessment reviewed, during the review I was told that I was assessed on an inflated formula because my income tax returns had not been submitted. I explained the reasons for this as my ex wife would not release to me the documentation I required to complete my tax returns. However I did tell and all my applications were based on my current earnings at the time. The decision handed down to me by child support was that I could afford to pay the full assessed amount, but that forced me into a minus figure off my budget per fortnight, but at appeal I was told again basically my debts meant nothing to child support. As a result of child support and the family court I have had to go bankrupt.

I submit to you that the formula should be changed to allow the paying parent to be able to live a good life and any future relationships should not be adversely affected by forcing that relationship to live on the poverty line while the first family are afforded everything.

The assessment should not be based on the Gross Wage as this is a double dip, I pay tax on the Gross Amount then loose the child support amount and I am left with what remains to live for myself and anyone else in my life as well as support the children when they are with me for the 36% of the year.

The assessment should be either based on a salary sacrifice arrangement or be based on net income only after taxation which would allow a more even spread of the funds.

Another way would be to assess the receiving parent with this as a wage and that parent would be taxed on that amount.

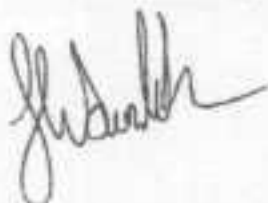
As I am in the top bracket as far as gross wages go, I can get no relief on benefits such as pension assistance, medical rebates etc. yet the receiving parent being on centrelink payments, child support and living in a non disclosed defacto relationship can get all this.

Child support as well as the family court should base each and every case on it's merits and determine out of this how child support should be formulated. One way to assess this is to put the family unit back together then take all the liabilities out that existed and get a real picture of what the children cost to live per annum. This assessment would ease the burden on the paying parent for not having to support 2 full families, would allow for child support to be paid for what it is not for the other parent to enjoy the fruits of life.

As I have stated a second family or relationship has to be taken into account as statistically these don't always work out for the paying parent to live in, and can create further problems if children come along to this relationship. As with the fact that based on gross salaries centrelink support does not exist for these children.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to submit this to you and if required I can be contacted at anytime to discuss this matter and others.

Yours Sincerely,



JOHN GRAHAM SNEDDEN