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House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 368

Date Received: 4-8-03 21st July 2003

Secretary

To Whom it may Concern,

I'm writing in protest to your "Inquiry into Child Custody Arrangement".

I'm a single mum with a 2 year old little girl. I have known her Father for 14 years, or I thought I knew him! We were not in a relationship. My Daughter has come through 3 methods of contraception, so it was not a one night stand. It's been my worst fear ever to be a single mum, but it's happened.

Her Father decided to take the easy way out and moved to another state, as he could'n "cope" when I told him I was pregnant. He believed he wasn't the father so therefore would not sign the Birth Certificate. You have no idea what problems that caused for Child Support Agency and Centrelink not to mention the stress he put me through because of this. He then put us through DNA testing when she was just 6 months old only to confirm what I already knew. He has seen his daughter twice, for about 1hr in total, so is a complete stranger to her.

I have been fighting with Child Support for the last 2 years about maintenance, only to be told I'm entitled to a huge \$13-25 per month! Yes that's right. \$13-25.

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So this also indicates to me he is being dishonest declaring his wages therefore not even concerned about the amount he pays. Have you bought up a child on \$13-25 a month? I bet you haven't. If he was interested in the upbringing of his child he would pay a more substantial amount.

So basically I'm saying my daughter's Father abandoned me when I was just 2 months pregnant, did not attend Birthing classes, or the birth, has had nothing to do with her all her life, would not have a clue what she looks like, what she eats, her routine etc etc etc, he is a complete stranger to her, and you think he has a right to "shared" care? Get real! He does not deserve any rights to see her, he abandoned her, so he deserves NOTHING!!! I'm happy to talk about this with you if you need to contact me I maybe phoned on [REDACTED] (H)

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]