

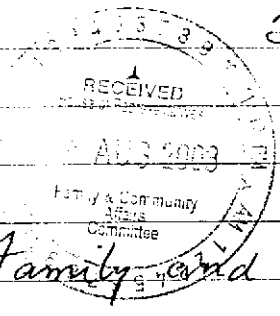
House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs ✓

Submission No: 376

Date Received: 4-8-03

Secretary:

P.O. Box 300
Jerrigal 2260
30.7.03



Committee Secretary,
Standing Committee on Family and Community
Affairs,
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry,
Department of the House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
Canberra. A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

In the best interests of children of separated parents I submit that it should not be presumed that all 'fathers' are the same and should be dealt with under one general rule.

There are fathers who do the right thing by their children and others who leave much to be desired. The attitude of two fathers (no names mentioned) to exemplify my point:

Father 1.	Father 2.
1 Works.	Works.
2 Has an accommodation and transport.	Lives with his aged * parents and older brother
3 Pays full child maintenance regularly.	Is over \$1,000 in arrears with child maint. and mother constantly drags
	* Has no car.

Father 1.

2

Father 2.

what amounts she can
from him through con-
stant contact with the
Child Welfare Dept.

4 Pays his income tax yearly.

?

5 Does not smoke or gamble.
(Has a glass of wine occ-
asionally with a meal.)

Smokes, drinks and
gambles.

6 Takes work holidays
during school holidays.
(Bicycle riding, camping,
beach, with his children).

never takes work
holidays during school
holidays.

7 Takes his children on all
his allotted weekends.

never takes all his
children together. Takes
some at a time when it
suits him - not on a
regular basis. Expects
to have them brought to
him and picked up
afterwards.

Many more joints could be made re "quality" of time children experience with father.

Bradly - Father 1 keeps his language, self, and behaviour clean when with his children - and at other times, for that's the kind of man he is. Father 2 is more impossible.

These are all facts - a few of many.

Please remember that overall hard and fast rules cannot be made for all fathers in matters of custody and access where the young are concerned. Great care should be taken to see that such rights are appropriately awarded.

With thanks for your consideration of these matters.

Yours faithfully

(Mrs) E. Torrisi

(EMINA TORRISI)