

[REDACTED]

4<sup>th</sup> August 2003

Family and Community Affairs Committee

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is [REDACTED]

My wife walked out 4 years ago with my son [REDACTED]

He is 10 years old now, my son and I have a good bond, we used to do everything together e.g.(fishing, bush walking) you know "the normal things father and son do". After we separated my ex lived in the [REDACTED] area moving at least 7 times in 12 months around this area. I had my son just about every weekend and seen him after school everyday. Then my ex moved to the [REDACTED] taking my son with her. I could not see [REDACTED] as often because I had work commitments, where she is on a disability pension and had no work commitments (no ties).

I seen my son about 4 times while they were living on the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (approx about 6 mths).It was hard. Then she moved again this time to the [REDACTED] area, about 1,800 klms from [REDACTED] where I still live. By law I could not stop her from moving so far away and taking my son with her. My ex is still in the [REDACTED] area with my son. It's like losing part of yourself (I have no control of this matter). I haven't seen [REDACTED] since October last year. I used to ring him once a week, but it's hard talking over the phone, not knowing and not seeing him day to day. Now I ring him every 2 to 3 weeks. I still love and miss him and he says he loves and misses me too. I have got no control on how he is raised; he misses a lot of school. I miss seeing him growing up. I miss everything about having my only son around. VERY VERY FRUSTRATING.

I'm disappointed with the current system because I pay my child support on time. I have no control on how this money is used. Don't see enough of my

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son (as much as I'd like). I'd like to see him everyday (and him to be a part of my life too). This system is one sided in my case. It seems as though my ex has it all her way NO COMPROMISING. She got 40% on settlement (\$70,000<sup>plus</sup> car and furniture). She blew that in 12 mths where did my son benefit from that, I have a stable lifestyle still living in [REDACTED]. Under the child support system I have to pay 18% of my earnings to her. I don't mind paying this money as I send him clothes etc. but have no control over the 18%. And to rub it in "never see my son whom I miss very much". My ex has got too much control of this matter, when I have none. She controls when I see him, as I have to work for my living where she doesn't.

I am currently in a stable relationship and have been for 4 years. My partner feels the same about my situation and would love to see my son more often as she sees what it is doing to me inside. As the time goes by my son is growing further and further away from me due to the distance we live apart.

In closing I feel that each case should be judged on individual circumstances, when a marriage breaks up a contract is broken. When children are involved they are part of this contract, which are also affected by the outcome of a marriage breakup, I feel there should also be some sort of contract drawn up to work out the visitation rights between both parties in the breakup of a marriage. As both parents should be involved equally in the up bringing of the child/children involved. These are my views on the current system and how it does and doesn't work for my son and me.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]