

Submission No: 672

Date Received: 8-8-03

Secretary:

[REDACTED]

Monday, August 04, 2003

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

My short-term girlfriend at the time arranged a pregnancy with me against my known wishes. I took on fatherhood and marriage completely, borrowing for 4 years to be a house parent to my boy. My boy's mother then took him 4 hours away to live and I was granted minimum 2nd weekend access after months of legal battle. Because of Creditor pressure I signed 80% of my personal estate over to my son's mother in Property Settlement. Unable to afford the trips to visit my son I moved to his town to live and 5 yrs later I'm still here, away from my home, work, friends and kin. After a MVA payout I again went to Court and have secured 1/3 access time with my son. It took 2 yrs to fast-track this through the Court. Legal advice now states I could only get the fair 50% access time with my son if the mother got on well with me. She makes sure she doesn't and so maintains control of my son.

The accompanying daily humiliating power games my son's mother plays with me are made near unbearable by the fact that the Child Custody Laws support her actions.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]