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Secretary

**From:** Garry Maiden [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 August 2003 11:06 AM  
**To:** Committee, FCA (REPS)  
**Subject:** child custody inquiry

To the committee on the child custody arrangement,

Myself being a paying parent, welcome this inquiry into child custody and appreciate how hard your job is.

Part A

I love my children very much and would like to see these changes happen, so that it will work for everyone involved, as there are a lot of things to be said i will endeavour to keep this short.

I believe that equal consideration, should be given to both parents, in this way it will take the children off the emotional playing field, as they are sometimes used as tools to gain legal, emotional and financial power.

It should not interfere with education, as education is important to all children. It should also consider the distance that are sometimes faced between the two parents, and what lead to these types of decisions. as my decision to to leave the general location of my children was not taken lightly.

Financial consideration should not be taken into account in the first place as this would be bias to any decision given.

The children should have a right to talk to grandparents, just because the parents are separated does not mean that the children should miss taking to their grandparents, for any occasion.

Part B

The existing child support formula doesn't work fairly for a number of reasons.

- it doesn't take into account what the paying parent has to support themselves, it should take into account
- rent, for the area they wish to live
- utilities, gas, electricity, phone
- rego on vehicle
- food

In most cases when a parent leaves, the only thing that they have are their clothes, they don't have any furniture because they have bought the stuff together and generally think that they will be married forever, so they should give reasonable time and/or assistance to reoccur such items as firstly accommodation, furniture and settle themselves down, before they should have to start paying child support.

The distance a parent has to go to gain employment and if public transport is available or not, the system automatically thinks that this is available in all areas, for the type of employment the parent has gained.

Finally the rate is far too high. i accept that child support has to be paid, but in my case with 4 children 34% is needed in child support and 29% is then taken in tax. That means over 63% of my wage is taken before i get paid, this is unbelievably unfair as i don't qualify for any concessions because i work just above the threshold, but take home what you would get on unemployment benefits, which in itself is no incentive to work.

Further more it would be in my opinion it is unfair if you use the amount of

care a parent gives, to how much he/she pays i child support. As some parents had to move form the location of the children, for one reason or another, in my case lack of affordable housing.

Thank you greatly and would gladly give testimony at this inquiry and i feel i have more to offer.

Regards

Garry Maiden

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