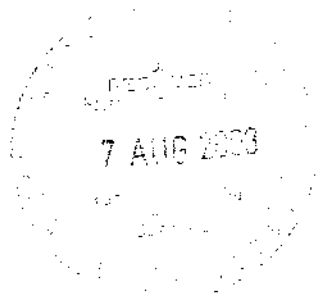


From: Richard Morris [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 7 August 2003 8:41 AM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
Submission No:	719
Date Received:	7-8-03
Secretary:	

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



Dear Sirs,

I have been perusing your website:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fca/childcustody/index.htm>

and have noticed that you are accepting submissions for proposals to improve Child Support and Family Law arrangements. I welcome this initiative, and would like to make a late proposal, unfortunately due to the fact that this invitation has just come to my attention.

My own experience as a father who has always acted responsibly as a parent and provider for his children is that the system is overwhelmingly complicated. In my case, after "final" Family Court Orders were finally granted, after several years of litigation, the lawyers for my ex-wife applied for more Orders regarding Child Support. As I was unable to pay for any further legal advice (as well as work and help with raising my children), I, as it turned out very foolishly accepted an "Agreement" which was then lodged with the Child Support Agency (CSA). Since that time, the CSA have been ruthless in enforcing the Agreement, even though the said Agreement form does not specifically state that it is a "legally binding document" and "entitles them to enforce my debt to The Commonwealth" (CSA's words)..

My submission to your Advisory Group is that the "Agreements" that are currently accepted by the CSA should be more diligently scrutinised before acceptance and the ability of the payee to keep to the Agreement should be ensured before it is accepted. As it stands it appears to be a way of allowing the CSA to avoid their responsibility to help determine a mutually agreeable and workable solution to a long-term commitment on the part of the paying parent. This then affects the paying parents ability to provide for his childrens more important needs.

Yours Sincerely,

Richard Morris,
59 Parer Street,
Burwood, 3125,
Victoria, Australia.

[REDACTED]

Hotmail now available on Australian mobile phones. [Click here for more.](#)

✓