

Submission No: 227

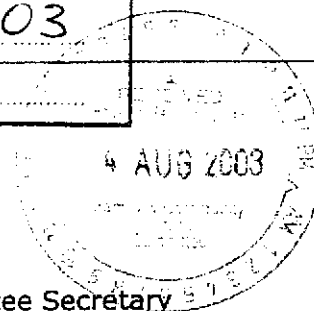
Date Received: 4-8-03

From: maurice [mok@net-tech.com.au] Secretary:

Sent: Monday, 4 August 2003 12:34 AM

To: Committee, FCA (REPS)

Subject: shared parenting enquiry



Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family and
Community Affairs
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Submission Re: Inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation, and the Operation of the Child Support Formula.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I seek to make a submission to this inquiry, based on my recent personal experiences.

Prior to my separation from my wife in May 2002 I was the main care-giver of my 2 sons, aged 10 and 7. Between separation and April 2003 my

children were having ongoing regular contact with me, but always at the discretion and convenience of the mother.

Since Family Court Proceedings initiated by myself in April 2003 (I wanted to regularize shared care/time because I know that my children want

and need equal time with both their father and mother), my childrens contact with me, their father, has been reduced to 1 day per fortnight.

The Family Law Court has taken as evidence of my "unsuitability" as a parent seeking shared care, a psychologist's report that was heavily biased

against me, towards the mother.

The psychologist has a post graduate degree in Forensic psychology and no formal training in Family therapy.

In effect, this has criminalized my efforts to be the best dad I can to my boys, whom I love dearly. The psychologist never observed me with my

boys.

Rebuttal Joint Custody would ensure that the "best interests" of all Australian children are upheld,

by setting as a starting point upon divorce that children have equal time live in arrangements with both their father and mother.

In any particular case, if rebuttal of joint custody is pursued by either parent, then we need to "de-criminalize" any investigation

4/08/2003

of either parent, via an inquisitional (not adversarial) process that involves psychologists who specialize in Family therapy, (not

Forensic Psychology) and who understand the importance of fathers and the severe health consequences of father absence for children [1]. We

also need extensive compulsory post-seperation parenting education to ensure Rebuttal Joint Custody works.

Rebuttal Joint Custody will send a clear message to all parents about their ongoing commitment to facilitate equal live in arrangements with both

parents for their children upon divorce, it will tell our children that they will still spend equal time with father and mother and represents our

greatest committment to loving our children.

Please support legislation for Rebuttal Joint Custody and a fairer Child Support Formula.

REFERENCES.

1. Father facts (4th. Ed), page 14. Wade F.Horn,(Ph.D.) and Tom Sylvester. The National fatherhood Initiative (USA) www.fatherhood.org

Sincerely

Maurice Mok

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