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Secretary:

13 Jason Street
TOOWOOMBA

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

Dear members,

Writing in response to the letter to the editor entitled "Have your say on child custody," Printed in the Toowoomba Chronicle newspaper, Friday, 01 August 2003.

It is a sad sign of the times we live in a society that seems to have forgotten simple basic morals such as commitment, communication and loyalty, that has succumbed to greed and pressures from the outside world. Thus leading to so many breakdowns in family units, leaving our children caught in the crossfire that seems to becoming a battle between parents and now politicians.

It is my firm belief that Federal politicians should think long and hard before bringing out a law which sees a 50-50 shared custody between parents, which is really like saying one shoe fits all.

Each breakdown in the family unit has its own unique circumstances, as do the children affected by it; therefore each custody dispute should be treated as an individual case.

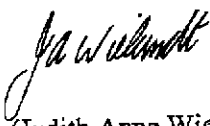
In a dream world children should be raised in a family environment with two parents. However in today's society that isn't possible, therefore it is important with young children they be raised by the parent who can offer them a secure loving home environment (which in most cases is the mother) with the father having contact as agreed between the two parties, especially when they to him are like inanimate possessions.

I believe it is wrong for any law to be passed forcing a child to go with a parent who is a virtual stranger to the child and not really interested in the daily responsibility involved in looking after children. This can cause more problems in society by creating emotionally disturbed children.

I believe laws should remain flexible on individual cases and that parents should not back stab each other and pit one against the other, so when the child reaches an age it is free to make its own decision on how it would like to spend time with each parent.

As for child support I believe the parent who leaves the marriage should be made to pay maintenance in support of the child, especially if they are the higher income earner.

Yours faithfully,



(Judith Anne Wielandt)