

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 307

Date Received: 5-8-03

Secretary:

3rd August 2003

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

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Child Custody Arrangements

I wish to strongly express my opinion that shared custody should be the starting point for all child custody arrangements. There is at present so much prejudice against fathers assumed by the Family Court.

Re: Domestic Violence Orders

I wish to strongly express my opinion that Domestic Violence orders be ignored by the Family Court. Given the recent Griffith University study of 804 domestic violence orders which that only 3 had any criminal prosecutions, it is clear that most domestic violence orders (i.e. almost all) are motivated by reasons other than child protection viz. desire to hurt the respondent spouse (the father), desire to secure advantage in children's matters, and consequently property matters. See the Qld University of Technology survey – School of Justice Studies – survey of Qld Magistrates which found 74% of Magistrates believe this is often the purpose of domestic violence orders.

Yours faithfully