

**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**

House of Representatives
on Family and Community Affairs

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Secretary:

To the Honourable members of the Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs.

Let me start by saying that this discussion boils down to a fight between mothers and fathers. Feminism has made it so. This ought not to be. This discussion should be about the REAL interests of the child, not the current BOGUS interests of the child that equate to mother welfare. This is my opinion, to which I am entitled.

Inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation

The Best Interests of The Children – Equal Parenting

Given that “the best interests of the child” for a long time now has been a cliché, tool and weapon used by the Family Court, the Child Support Agency and the feminist movement to enforce women’s so-called “rights” over men and their children, one of the most important factors for consideration in this entire debate is how the best interests of the child are truly served.

To assume, as feminists pretend to, that making the mother happy is the only criteria for ensuring what is best for the child, assumes firstly, that the mother is the parent who will have sole “custody” of the child and therefore must be kept happy, and secondly, that it is only the mother’s happiness that the child is concerned with. This, of course, flies in the face of all the available evidence to the contrary.

It is painfully obvious (to all who do not have a self-serving agenda) that children love both parents and suffer when they see either of their parents being mistreated. Therefore, it behooves us to find a solution that is fair and unbiased for all parties concerned ie. children, father, and mother. Any other outcome denies the God-given right of parents to raise their children and children to be raised by their parents.

Current thinking amongst some irrational groups in Australia wrongly assumes that mothers are the only parents capable of nurturing a child. This is grossly untrue. Certainly, mothers nurture better as mothers, but equally certain is that fathers nurture better as fathers.

The fact is, (and all research bears this out), that children require SIGNIFICANT input from BOTH PARENTS. Mothers cannot replace fathers and fathers cannot replace mothers.

Why do we assume any other stance than that children should spend equal time with both parents? What could have entered our thinking to sway us from what is natural? Is there another agenda here? Could money be the driving force behind this erroneous stance?

To even suggest that we should discuss the “possibility” of having equal parenting is an insult to all the children of Australia who cannot see their dad, yet know they need him. They might well ask, (and they will one day): “Why isn’t it the norm?”

The Child Support Agenda

The Child Support formula, in its current form, does not equitably share the burden of support between parents.

The custodial parent is, to the largest extent, supported by the community and also supported by the non-custodial parent. The non-custodial parent is not supported - period!

In the majority of cases, the custodial parent refuses to work, choosing rather, to have an easy life paid for by others. This does NOT present a good role model for our children. For, if it truly is so easy and acceptable to be on welfare, why work?

It is well known that the CSA formula was supposedly based on two different researches. These two vastly differed from each other, so how can it be that the CSA formula is based on them? It either is or it isn’t and it is impossible to base it on two DIFFERING reports.

As it stands, a non-custodial parent earning a gross weekly income of \$500 and paying child support for three children will actually get in his pocket, after tax, Medicare levy and child support, only \$252.12. Is it any wonder that 40% of unemployed people are non-custodial parents who cannot afford to work?

The following pages are articles by other people who’s research and knowledge is far greater than mine. It may be laborious for the honourable members to read, but I believe the insights and facts provided by the researchers are vital to this forum.