

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 686

Date Received: 8-8-03

Secretary:

Mrs Lula Braham.

17 Murphy St

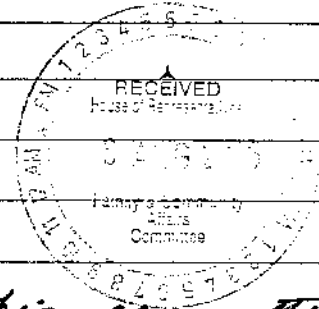
Liverpool NSW 2170

02 96020347

6-8-03

Committee Secretary.

Standing Committee of Family & Community Affairs
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry
Dept of House of Representatives
Parliament House.
Canberra A.C.T. 2600



Dear Sir/Madam.

I am writing to this committee as a grand-mother of 2 young boys dragged into a situation that should never have happened to them or to us as hands on grand-parents.

We were there to help before they were born after their birth through all their sickness and through their mothers illnesses. He travelled to Gympie from Sydney by train plane truck & car. 3 or 4 times a year, but now have been cut off completely due to the marriage breakdown. 4th Feb 2002, our phone n/c were \$300-\$400 a quarter. Poppy would ring [redacted] one night & [redacted] would ring the next by pressing a button as soon as he learnt how. So was the love of both these 2 human beings [redacted] gave Jim the courage & will to keep going after he was burnt 45% of his body in a patrol tanker accident.

They would walk the paddocks together, or get carried as was the case some times feeding all the animals and being taught about

farm life and life on general.

1. Before any legal action takes place the interest of the chn be foremost with regard to access & schooling and seeing them settled into some sort of stability.
2. That the wife have proof of abuse not just hearsay or what story she can make up to substantiate her claim to the police.
3. The claim be investigated before an AVO is issued.
4. That if you participate in a hearing the court transcripts be made available through F.O.I. for you to read & reply to when lies are told.
5. The court hearings be heard and not adjourned to drag out the conflict over years so the dad & grand parents don't get to have the chance to see the chn and they think we don't want to see them. (of course if ~~of~~ physical abuse of the chn is involved then access should not take place)
6. The Womens Crisis Centre be screened and should not pressure women into saying they are in an abusive situation and telling

women what to say & how to make a case and not push their own barrow just to keep their jobs

7. That the husband have the right of reply to confront the wife re the breakdown and the husband have more say to the everyday life of the chn and not be treated as though you have bought a new car, and tell the salesman to keep it and he will pay for him to look after it and never get to take it out of the yard to try it out, to see how it works & keep it in good running order It take

2 people to make a baby, not just one It takes all the extended family members to support the chn & the young couple through their problems

8. That the wife not be given an open cheque book to child support, child care, and Social Security pensions. and the privacy not be waived when it comes to bank a/c Superannuation and all files be produced at court hearings and penalties be made if not produced or have been doctored up

9. The father have real access to the chn and not just when the wife decrees or have to see them in a gold fish bowl This should take place before child support money is paid may be more financial support would be forth coming and disputes would be less

10. The wife prove she is capable of looking after the chn. and their needs and not at a

day care centre.

11. Both parents go to parenting classes and not just the father (who in our case knows more & does more than the mother he was the child carer for the 1st 9 months)
12. That the men's point of view of the situation MUST be listened to. Men in general are not good at explaining themselves. Women know all the answers men don't (Women share with other women their concerns & problems men do not)
13. All the government forums, workshops, seminars etc do not help men in a suicidal situation its too late then
14. The Family Court Not appoint a councillor and that councillor be quite independant of the family court
15. The councillor be unbiased in his/her assessment and the parties have the right of appeal to question, debate his/her assessment before it goes to court.
16. All legal papers be given to the parties at least 7 to 10 days before a hearing not 2 days so as to read through & question.
17. We as grand parents have the right to object to and have erased from court transcripts and lies or suggestion or innuendos that defame us and have the right to sue for defamation as the case may be
18. The wife not dictate what she wants and tell lies to everyone who will listen to justify her case. not a good example

for the chn to follow

19. often, would rather walk away & avoid arguments, cut their loss (which are great) because they have been bled dry but still have to work as best they can.
20. The Magistrates take into consideration the grand parents and their contribution toward the chn's balance stability and well being
21. The Magistrates excuse themselves from a hearing if there becomes a conflict of interest.
22. The contact centres be accountable to all parties & honest assessments be made to all parties at a reasonable cost
23. Legal advice be made available to men at a reasonable cost and not based on income and not looking at all their expenditures.
24. The grand parents not be written off as just an appendage to a marriage breakdown but as an integral part of the chn's nurturing & stability and that the chn can rely on, and talk about their worries. Nana's & Poppa's are essential in the chn's life be it by phone, letters, cards, parcels, or contact grand parents must be given to the chn to let them know they are not the problem. It's an adult situation only and they will be included in any outcome because they are loved for themselves.

I was looking for the truth and have always said to our chn truth will win every time but I'm afraid not in this justice system & family Law courts it is for women only. No wonder there are so many bitter suicidal men in the community.

I have wondered just how the mother explain to the chn why dad kills himself and where does she and everyone else place the blame.

Why we have so many chn mainly boys who grow up unable to interact with their male peers because of the lost contact with dad. and the unity of the family structure its very sad. How can we have well adjusted parents if we have mal adjusted children.

I do hope with this committee and the resolution coming out of it that the scales of justice may swing and balance a little better in the mens favour.

Thank you all for this submission not before time, so some good may come their way for a change.

I remain

Sincerely yours

Mrs Lelia Boehm