

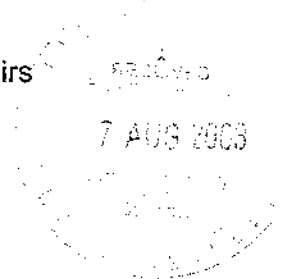
House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Family and Community AffairsSubmission No: **852**Date Received: **6-8-03**

Secretary: .....

**From:** John Treloar [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 August 2003 8:03 PM  
**To:** Committee, FCA (REPS)

**Subject:** Inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation.

Committee Secretary  
 Standing Committee on Family & Community Affairs  
 Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry  
 Department of the House of Representatives  
 Parliament House  
 Canberra



Dear Secretary

In regard to the inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation, I wish to make comment on whether the existing child support formula works fairly for both parents in relation to their care of and contact with their children.

As far as the formula goes into working out how much child support is to be paid, I feel that it is unfair that the paying parent should have to pay the total costs of the child's upbringing. Should a custodial parent remarry, why doesn't her husband's income be taken into consideration when the formula is calculated when it does come into consideration when, if the paying parent remarries, his wife's income is taken into account when there is a review?

When there are stepchildren that are undertaking further education, their dependance is not taken into account once they attain the age of 18 years, yet when the paying parent's child turns 18 if he continues to tertiary education the paying parent must continue to pay child support.

I know it costs a lot to rear a child but surely, the amount of \$250.00 per week is exorbitant spending for one child, when I have a stepdaughter at University that doesn't get that amount and when both parents earn too much she can't get any assistance from Centrelink in the form of any payments. It costs us \$212 per week to pay for her accommodation and food and clothing.

Surely the formula could be calculated on a base wage instead of including overtime, as in my job as an ambulance officer I have no control over overtime as it is a compulsory part of my employment. When my overtime is on a low or I am on annual leave, we find it very difficult and would find it practically impossible if we had to live on one wage.

I feel it would be a more equitable way of calculating the formula.

Also I feel that the custodial parent should have to make a contribution towards the formula.

When a paying parent requests a review to change the assessment of the formula, it takes at least 3-4 months before the review is finalised, but when an increase is to be changed, it is done in a matter of days.

In summary:-

7/08/2003

1. I feel the child support formula should be calculated on a basic wage without overtime, just as superannuation is calculated
2. The formula figure should be divided between both parents
3. The paying parent should be notified of where the money is spent and the child should have regular access of telephone at any time to ring the other parent
4. When the formula is calculated, stepchildren who are doing tertiary studies should come into account
5. There are so many other issue relating to child support in general, that I feel that it is a very discriminatory agency

Acknowledgment of receipt of this email would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully  
JOHN TRELOAR

7/08/2003