

Forbes, Bev (REPS)

From: Daniel Lablack [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 8 August 2003 4:21 PM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: Inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation

08 August 2003

To,

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
Department of the House of Representatives

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
Submission No:	914
Date Received:	8-8-03
Secretary:	

My experience does not include a custodial battle but rather the neglect of the father in all aspects of parenthood.

- He maintains virtually no contact with his children, does not support them in any way- physically, emotionally, spiritually, socially and almost nothing financially- with absolutely no accountability. This is certainly not in the best interests of the children and leaves me as the sole parent to cope as best I can. I love being a mother but I'm not superman and the fathers positive input is so important to the children's wellbeing.
- Both parents need to work together for the good of the children.
- To advantage him during our property settlement the father chucked in his job and fabricated some vague illness and so continues to pay minimal maintenance- \$20 per month in total for four children.
- 'Family Law' seems to be fine with the fact that he lives a completely selfish and independent lifestyle avoiding every bit of responsibility for children while I am left to be totally responsible for all their needs.
- There needs to be accountability here. If you are a parent you have a responsibility towards your children even if you continue to father more children from further relationships.
- Chucking in a job and pretending to be sick to get a bigger share of our property and to get out of financially supporting the children needs to be thoroughly investigated.
- If the children's best interests are paramount both parents must maintain contact and be supportive of their children in all areas.
- When the father walked out and divorced me there were no prerequisites. i.e., no mediation, no questions, no investigations, no hope of contesting - just all of a sudden no parent and nothing we could do about it.
- There needs to be compulsory mediation and counseling for relationships before divorce and property settlements are allowed.

From Lynette

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