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Date Received: 17-7-03
Secretary:

11th July 2003

Secretariat
Joint Standing Committee
Family and Community Services
Parliament House
Canberra 2600



RE: CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS.

Dear Sir / Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to submit some thoughts on this issue. I am a divorced father of a 10 and 8 year old. I have my children stay with me 2 nights a week, care for them after school 2 further afternoons a week, and spend time with them on weekends depending on work commitments. I am an Ambulance Paramedic and earn approximately \$70 000 per year. My take home pay averages \$1500 per fortnight and I pay \$616.00 per fortnight in child support to my ex-wife. I cannot see how 2 children cost \$616 per fortnight to keep. When the subject of reducing child support is raised with her, she quotes the Child Support handbook I object to paying twice for the kids, as I obviously feed and entertain them when they are with me.

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A fairer system which recognises those fathers who choose to maintain an active role in their children's lives would be appreciated. At the moment, I am treated financially the same as a father who lives interstate, apart from a small family payment from Centrelink which I am grateful for. The groundswell of support to a review of Child Support payments is out there in the community, and I hope other men in my situation have written to you.

Yours Faithfully