

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 125

Date Received: 23-7-03

Secretary:

Dear Sir/madam

I am writing to you to allow me to have some input into child support changes

I am not a great writer so please give me a go and take some of what I am trying to say into consideration

I am 40 years old and have a trade back ground with crane tickets and riggers ticket and a resume full of other qualifications that I have worked very hard for

I have been divorced for 5 years now, I was married with 2 children until my ex wife decided to let another man interfere in the marriage and move in with him, taking my children with them

The family law court allowed them to take every thing I worked very hard for 70%-30% I ended up with some superannuation that I can't touch and my tools of trade and some clothes

The house the car the furniture and all the children belongings went to them

Then on top of that I now pay the other man and my ex wife who both work He is a [REDACTED] who works 6 day a week and she cleans houses 5 day a week cash in hand (no tax) \$1106.76 a month

Last month I nearly gave up my job as [REDACTED] the oldest child was told to live with dad, I asked a lawyer to write to the mother if this what she wanted, answer was yes, I then had custody papers drawn up for her to sign, [REDACTED] was in private school with me in Perth for 4 weeks when the mother changed her mind taking [REDACTED] back to Bunbury and into her old school

I could do nothing as the law is until she is 12 she stay with the mother, my daughter is not happy at her mothers and I am out of pocket \$1777.00 for school fees and lawyers fees I have tried the long process of child support and 3 times applying to have the money refunded the answer was no and the month I had Melissa I still had to pay child support as I did not have Melissa for more than 101 days

I cant work in Perth as 27% of my gross wages be fore tax not after tax is taken for child support , so I now work in the mining industry with no incentive to improve my qualifications or earn more than I am now , seems odd after all the work and studies I have

done over the years, \$1106.76 seems to be some what ridiculous as one child is 7 and the other 11, I cant even ask to get their teeth straightened as it is cosmetic so what is the money for , so its for the mother to spend on her self and having a good time with her boyfriend - leavening the children unhappy and the father with his hands tied behind his back so he can be helped to manage his responsibilities by child support agency

Changes need to be made

- 1) 1 size does not fit all
- 2) 27% of gross wages is too high, how about after tax I pay 48 cents in a dollar tax
- 3) I need to earn \$20 000 to be able to pay, \$1106.76 a month
- 4) how about the Childs wants and needs ([REDACTED] has wanted to live with me right from the start and she was until family law court said sorry you have skills , you work and the mother you have no skills you get the children and \$1106.76)
- 5) how about a little more flexibility as at the moment all seem to be in mothers favour, read my file (case number 857785) I have had nothing but grief with the system and really feel sorry for the people trying to enforce a the system and talk to people that are wrongly done by
- 6) How about finding out who is to blame % factor this (that would be fare)
- 7) How about allowing the father in my case to rebuild his life after the family law court has cleaned him out,

I had a 1st class credit rating, and could not pay child support and tax and buy more furniture and some sort of car (I still have a 1992 Nissan) and rent and food and power and try to get a deposit for another home, in the way the law is now

Any way

If you would like to talk to me, please do

Email me as I read emails most days and I could ring you back or make other arrangements

Good luck in making the system fairer than it is now, as I have hade 2 nervous break downs in 5 years trying to deal with it the way it is now

No wonder people do abnormal things in there life they would normally not

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]