

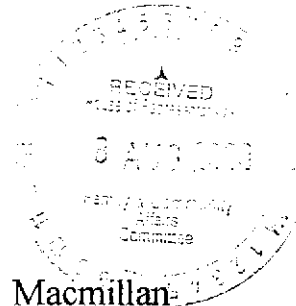
House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 432

Date Received: 8-8-03

Secretary:

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry
Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia



from Gordon H. Macmillan
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Some points for the Committee to consider.

1. The long lasting use of expression "Sole Parent"
2. Future of child raising, and care of aged parents.
3. Economic and environmental benefits of society.

1. The long lasting use of expression "Sole Parent"

In 1998 I addressed Victorian Senators, and several Ministers asking that the expression "Sole Parent" be removed from all Federal legislation or other papers and speech.
(Copy attached / appendix A)

As I suffered a health problem when initial acknowledgments were advised, some details of actions may have been mislaid.

Despite some 3 years passing, the expression "Sole Parent" continues though it was apparently no longer in written material in the Parliaments control.

It is with repugnance that I see that a organisation continues to call itself "Sole Parents Union", leaving aside and unapparent such points as

- (a) it was a virgin birth?
- (b) one parent has died?

Is this, apparently Females serving organisation, receiving any Commonwealth funding and if so how does it avoid a bias of Discrimination if a simply estranged parent still lives?

A presumption of shared custody will avoid this.

2. Future of child raising, and care of aged parents.

I am dismayed that the quality of childhood education, exposure to life's diversity and stimulation of development is limited by separation from a parent, usually Father.

Further, isolation from a set of grandparents and others of the estranged parents society finds them left isolated and neglected in times of need, be it child illnesses or senility and eventually death.

I require that this Committee address the issues of need for a caring society, at all ages and with honour continuing to family and friends

A presumption of shared custody will avoid this.

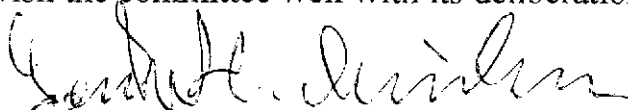
3. Economic and environmental benefits of society.

Society as we have enjoyed through the leadership of this Federation has developed Australia to a part of the world we love to reside in.

The biosphere is becoming congested with many surplus humans, let us not create more deserted and uncared or uncaring citizens whose resources, both economic and environmental must be shared, perhaps by warring or through legal argument.

A presumption of shared custody will avoid this.

I wish the committee well with its deliberations.



(Mr.) Gordon H. Macmillan

Thursday 7 August, 2003

Gordon Macmillan to Child Custody inquiry 2003 Appendix

HEADING DELETED

Re:- "SOLE PARENT"

Dear Senator XXXXX , and parliamentary colleagues.

I am reminded today of the expression "Sole Parent" to the denial of rights of millions of other parents in the community, by another round of publicity about domestic violence, and recent discussions about poverty, pensions and family life.

In the 1993 and 1996 general elections I sought caring representatives who would legislate to make impartial Social Security titles and encourage common usage, that recognises with dignity the previous partners (usually men) of "Sole Parents". *attached 1 & 2*

My further pursuit of this objective was referred in 1996 per Dr. Wooldridge to Social Security Ministry and an administrative reply received. *attached 3.*

The connection with "domestic" violence is the extreme isolation of children from the estranged parent in matrimonial breakdowns. It seems all too easy and a routine to allege fear of contact and use a restraining order as a basis for parental alienation. The current Government persists in labelling custodians as "Sole" parents and entrapped men as "Violent Perpetrators", without proof or sympathy of circumstances.

The expression "Sole Parent" could be removed from official use by suitable text in the May 1998 Budget statements and announcements in non gladiatorial terms, acknowledging parenthood as a continuing joint honour and privilege, as expected in Child Support and Family Court motives.

I pray that you and your houses will now act for reform to remove this entrenched discriminatory title. Please confirm your actions to writer.

Yours sincerely

Gordon H. Macmillan
5-May-1998