

Forbes, Bev (REPS)

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
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Secretary:	

From: Ian and Sandy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 8 August 2003 8:02 PM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: Child Custody Submissions

The present law does not recognize the importance of a father's role in a child's life. One weekend a fortnight does not allow a normal child/father relationship to develop or encourage the continued involvement of the father in his child's life.

1. An equal distribution of assets would be a fairer option as the father is also committed to paying maintenance each week, regardless of who is at fault for the marriage breakdown. Maintenance should be determined on net income, as that portion of wages before tax is not accessible to the taxpayer.
2. Fathers should have equal opportunity to be custodial parents as a mother is not automatically a better parent.
3. The trauma suffered by a child at the loss of a family unit is increased when they are also removed from friends and the familiar environment of a school in which they are settled. Consideration could be given to custody going to the parent remaining where children suffer the least disruption.

Yours faithfully
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