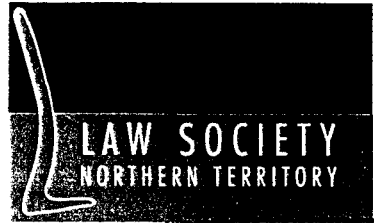


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21 August 2003

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| House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs | |
| Submission No: | 1210 |
| Date Received: | 25-8-03 |
| Secretary: | |

The Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir

RE: INQUIRY INTO JOINT CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS IN THE EVENT OF FAMILY SEPARATION AND INTO THE CHILD SUPPORT FORMULA

The Council of the Law Society of the Northern Territory, which includes a number of practitioners who have practiced in family law over an extended period, has discussed the issue of shared custody and strongly support the views of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia.

We particularly see practical problems in implementing a joint parenting approach where, as is sometimes the case, one parent lives in the Northern Territory and the other lives in one of the southern states.

We would be happy to meet with members of the Standing Committee should they visit Darwin during their deliberations.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

**Barbara Bradshaw
Chief Executive Officer**

