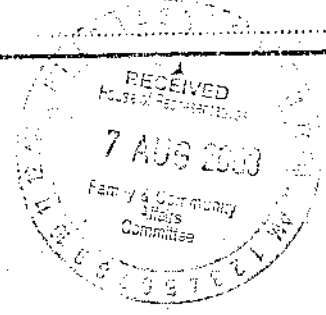


House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Family and Community Affairs

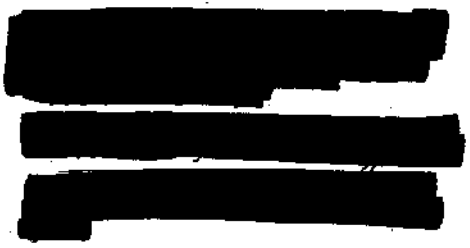
Submission No: 688

Date Received: 7-8-03

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_



*A submission*  
*to*  
*Standing committee*  
*on*  
*Family & Community Affairs,*  
*Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry,*  
*Department of House of Representatives,*  
*Parliament House,*  
*Canberra A.C.T. 2600.*



1. ~~one~~ as a man for ~~years~~ in the summary view  
court re custody of children at risk
2. One of my grandsons was allegedly sexually assaulted,  
a fact supported by a court recognised counsellor.  
This happened while in his Father's <sup>care</sup> by a friend.  
A Docs worker and the court recognised counsellor  
gave evidence, which the judge disregarded. He  
then gave the Father custody.
3. While I have always respected the legal system  
I have now become very aware of the flaws in  
our Family Law court. The Father informed me  
months before he would be given custody - based  
on his false reporting, many times to Docs re  
the Mother's alleged child abuse - as a teacher  
his reporting would be more acceptable to the court.
4. Before the judge made his decision the Father  
went out to celebrate his victory, leaving the  
children with their mother for two days. The  
same mother he had reported to Docs to tell  
them she was incapable of supplying adequate  
care. I have stayed at their home often over  
the years and have never seen any abuse. There  
was never any abuse in my home, where the  
mother was nurtured.
5. Both grandsons have Asthma. They need constant  
attention, which before the break-up was always  
given by the mother as a capable nurse and  
Bachelor of Health Sciences. She did in fact  
have a Health Care Allowance for the eldest  
son while in her care.
6. The Father regularly calls for advice on their  
health management, often requesting the  
mother care for them before, after or during school  
hours, when they are ill. The mother is therefore  
limited in her capacity to work, to pay child  
maintenance. Quite often she needs to buy  
necessities for them as the Father does not

7. The boys 5 & 10 are continually requesting to live with their mother. My daughter cannot afford further litigation for the return of the boys, so this detrimental situation goes on. There seems to be no account or measure of physical, psychological abuse that has occurred in this family and is not even considered.

The youngest boy talks of going to heaven to be with the angels. Really a distressing situation. I feel deeply concerned for the children's moral, physical and psychological well-being.

8. Since custody was given to the Father, contact with my grandchildren has been spasmodic. The Father even though he is in my area and my youngest daughter's area - he will not allow the children to see us - despite their requests. Since July 2002 we have seen them only at Christmas and Easter. Prior to custody we had regular contact with the children.

9. Could there be a way to review these cases, at least yearly, to find out whether the Court's decision was correct as regards the children.