

1st September 2003

SUBMISSION  
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE  
CHILD SUPPORT

House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 1572

Date Received: 4-9-03

Secretary

I am writing this letter to the committee to inform you about some of the dealings my husband and I have had with the Child Support Agency (CSA) since our first encounter in July 1997.

Firstly one of the major problems with the agency is the hours in which they are available. My husband works between 7.00am and 3.30pm rostered hours as a furniture removalist. With his job his is driving trucks due to this he is not able to ring the CSA during the day and by the time he gets home the CSA are closed. Graham is lucky to have me as a representative for him but there would be many paying parents who would have to take time away from work if they need to contact the CSA. These hours need to be more flexible towards the clients needs.

Another major problem is the act of privacy for the paying parent. The paying parents income is sent ~~to~~ to the payee on each assessment. A person should be entitled to have their income and other personal details such as bank account details, investment and superannuation value private from a former partner.

As in our case where [redacted] tried to claim 3 lots of airfares he had purchased so he could have contact with his 11 year old daughter. He had to give all these details and mine to show that I am a part dependant on [redacted]. I am a low income worker who works 15 hours a week and look after our 2 children 5 and under. According to the CSA I am not a part dependant and a wage of 15 hours per week is sufficient income

If this is the case then why don't these mothers who are on centrelink payments with 3 ~~off~~ children to 3 different fathers, claiming 1st of 2 fathers wages and living with someone else on centrelink payments as in our situation with [REDACTED] former partner get out and also work 15 hours per week.

The child support agency needs to look into what the payee is receiving and their details more closely in stead of taking every word they say as gospel.

Obviously anyone that can have 3 children to different men have no morals and being a custodial parent is teaching the children no values so this cycle is going to keep happening until things are changed and not all cases are the same so they shouldn't be treated with across the board rules and regulations some allowances need to be made to make this fair.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter I hope if not for us but for some other paying parent the law may change to help the innocent not the immoral.