

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



House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
Submission No: <u>146</u>
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Secretary:

Dear Secretary,

My child came about with no discussion or agreement on my behalf and certainly no Accident on her mothers behalf. It was a deliberate and devious act from her mother and my misplaced trust in her mother.

This child turned out to be my beautiful daughter, whom I love dearly but has been used as a pawn in her mothers games ever since she was born.

Since the end of our relationship, which was not a live in arrangement, we both lived in separate houses as she would not let me move in with her daughter from a previous relationship and she would not share a house with me before or after our daughter was born. I wanted to be together as a family but all she wanted was the best of both worlds, she wanted her parent pension and my wages as well, which she got a major share of as I thought we had a loving trusting relationship.

I am currently working at a casual call in employment position, where the amount of income I can earn varies greatly from week to week, however the child support agent took a 3-4 month period, average of my wages from a very busy time when I was working up to 12 hours a day 7 days a week and then estimated my expected income to my daughter and myself. I am currently working at a casual call in employment position, where the amount of income I can earn varies greatly from week to week, however the child support agent took a 3-4 month period, average of my wages from a very busy time when I was working up to 12 hours a day 7 days a week and then estimated my expected income

In order to be able to see my daughter, for no reason other than because her mother decided she didn't want me to see her, and she also did the same thing to the father of her 4-year old daughter as well so to my knowledge he doesn't have any contact with his child either. But in order for me to see my daughter who I feel in the past I have more than adequately provided for I have to go and seek the service of a family law court lawyer, and spend considerably large amounts of money and several months of time, just to be able to spend a token amount of my daughter's life with her. This is still going through the legal process but at the end of it I can probably get week-end access with her and I am supposed to be grateful for that time. Well I consider that unfair and unjust

and a future together, I lost my fulltime employment and she smartly decided she didn't want me in her life without an income. She never planned a future together all she did was use me and used our daughter to get what she wanted only my income. I was a constant part of the first year of my daughter's life but she is 18 months old now and I have not seen her for 5 months.

up till September 2004 based on that wage level and are deducting an amount from my wages based on those figures, and have also back dated the amount to pay and sent a \$3,000 arrears account that I am expected to pay plus almost \$500 a month as well. My wage vary all the time some weeks lately I only get 1 or 2 days work and therefore nothing like the estimated amount they consider me to be earning. I objected to this decision but was told it would stand because I had the potential to earn that amount based on the selected time frame figures from my employer. They were not interested in the fact that I don't always earn this amount.

I am expected to pay to support my child and yet to even be able to see her I have to pay for lawyers courts etc. This is a grossly unfair system which needs to be addressed. I am as much her parent as her mother is and yet fathers are seriously discriminated against.

I don't have a problem providing for my daughter but I think ~~fairness and equality~~ should be involved in the equal shared upbringing of our daughter. There is a lot more to being a father than providing financial support for a child whose mother seems to get all the rights in the current laws and under the current system favours and protects women, at the expense of men, and the children are not fully considered at all. My daughter ~~is not~~ young to make her own decisions so her mother gets all the rights to her.

I don't just want to help pay for my daughters upbringing I also surely have the right to be an important part of her life and surely she has a right to be a part of my life which includes a large, loving extended Aussie family. I am missing out but my daughter is being deprived of her Birth right to be a part of my family.

In regard to the care for my child in a shared custody situation and me as her father, having casual employment or any form of employment for that matter. If the child's mother who usually has the majority custody, and regardless of whether she works or not she has the right to make a decision regarding that child's adequate care, and that can come in the form of family and friends or paid childcare, surely as an equal parent and father I would have the same rights to make the same arrangements while my child was in my care but I was working. This child has a home duties grandmother who doesn't work away from our home and would be more than happy to care for my daughter while I was at work. Her grandfather and uncle also both live in our family home and happily shared her care in our home while I was with her mother, and she quite happily and readily left our daughter in their care on a daily basis and over night so why is there suddenly no contact from my daughter for me or my family simply because her mother and I no longer share a relationship.

It takes both a man and a woman to have a child so who has the right to then take half of a child's family and heritage away from it, through no fault of that child, it is the innocent party here and children surely deserve equal rights to both sides of their family, regardless of whether their parents live together as a family or not.

Yours faithfully
