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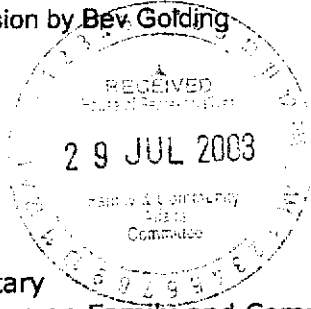
Secretary:

[REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 29 July 2003 9:25 AM

To: Committee, FCA (REPS)

Subject: Submission by Bev Golding

Forwarded by:



To:

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry

Submission by Bev Golding

In the past two years I have listened to several stories about fathers wanting equal parenting with their children. I have recently gone through a marriage separation and when I approached my lawyer on some financial assistance, he naturally asked me about the welfare of the children. I advised him that I wanted the children to have equal parenting from both myself and their father. My lawyer would not hear of it. He virtually forced me into going for sole parenting. Fortunately I was brought up with high standards and morals and was not going to allow some stranger to tell me what to do as far as raising my children are concerned. My parents always treated their in laws with the greatest of respect and always told us that they were someone else's children and needed to be cared for in the same manner as their own. That is why I stood my ground and was not going to let some lawyer destroy a man whom I spent 22 years with and fathered 5 of my children. The point I am trying to get across is, it's the lawyers who are putting these ideas into the women's head about sole parenting. It may not be in all cases, but I would say 70% of the time it is the case. Why should the mothers get sole custody of the children because there many fathers out there who are more than capable of looking after their children. Had my parents separated, I know 100% that my father would have been more than capable of looking after us.

About a year ago, I met a lovely gentleman. I have watched this man go through some hard times battling to get more time with his daughters. I have seen him shed many a tear out of pure frustration because no matter how hard he tried, there was always some legal loophole which prevented him having extra time with the girls. Why should a man of such high integrity be denied access with his children. It will be in the children's best interest to be around such a loving, caring and high moralistic person who happens to be their dad. This gentleman [REDACTED] is a Councillor with the City of [REDACTED] and is also a Justice of the Peace. Those two titles alone tell you he is not a slack, lazy or don't give a damn person. I can personally vouch for all the times over the past 12 months how he tried to get more access time with his children. Many a times I had tears in my eyes just watching him.

Please give these fathers equal parenting. We need our children to be taught and disciplined by both parents. I only wish my children's father was more like [REDACTED]. I thank you for taking this matter seriously and for imparting to your colleagues that a change in legislation is well and truly due.

Thank you

29/07/2003