16 Thomas Road,
Curra Qld., 4570

The Committee Secretary,
Standing Committee on Family & Community Affairs,
House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
Canberra. ACT.

29th July 2003

Dear Sir,
    It is pointless making more rules about children and their contact with parents in cases of separation if the laws aren't first changed to make these orders enforceable.
    Once an order is made the court seems to feel it has fulfilled its obligation. This is not the case if one parent blatantly disregards the order. This is happening again and again.
    We are losing our children because of the failure of the judicial system to adequately address these problems. Stop and think about the number of murder/suicides making headlines in recent times involving a parent and children. A big majority of these I believe are directly attributable to our archaic Federal Court System.
    eg. The custodial parent (mainly women) phones the other parent to say the child doesn't want to go for the weekend or holiday and no, you can't speak to them. The child is then told doesn't love you, he can't be bothered coming to get you. Imagine what this does to the child not to mention the parent wanting to see their child.
    This is when the frustration begins because their is no one to turn to.
    The access order is totally unenforceable until it is taken back to the court. How many people have the money for this and it doesn't solve anything, because it can happen again and again.
    Why are these orders made without any way of seeing they are carried out. If the person manipulating the system knew they had to answer to someone eg. State Police, the majority would not even try it. This would cut out numerous problems, children's stress, domestic violence and parents stress because they desperately need to see their children.
    I am enclosing copies of my original letter to the Attorney Generals office and the replies.
    I thank you for the opportunity to present my ideas.

Yours sincerely,

Will Cook