

From: Helena [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 5 August 2003 6:02 PM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: **1368**

Date Received: **5-8-03**

Secretary:

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry
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I am writing to you in support of the joint residency bill being put before Parliament. The current court system is more biased towards women, there is no middle ground it is usually sole custody to the mother.

Every second weekend I have access (which is not fair), I can pick my son up on Saturday and return him on Sunday, I have not been allowed to pick him up on Friday afternoons from day care. In fact I have not been permitted to pick him up from day care at all as I also get access on one afternoon by the time I pick him up from home there is not much time before I have to bring him back. I pay maintenance and am a loving Father and feel as a father I should be able to have more input into the upbringing of my son.

If joint custody applied in all but extreme cases there would be fewer court cases in the Family Courts, which means the extreme cases would be seen to more quickly. The financial burden would be minimized on the family unit as well as the Legal Aid system. The children would benefit!

This bill needs to be passed as quickly as possible as it will help many people including myself and another friend of mine going through the same situation.

yours sincerely

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