



Tuesday, 1 July 2003

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: **1563**

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Secretary:



DAVID HAWKER MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WANNON

Secretariat
Joint Standing Committee
Family and Community Services
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Sir/Madam,

I write in regard to the current enquiry investigating what improvements may need to be undertaken to better help families and children affected by marriage separations in particular whether or not the current child support formula meets the needs of both separated parents and their children.

Recently, I have been contacted by a constituent in my Electorate, [REDACTED] whom is currently paying \$141.00 per week to the Child Support Agency to his ex-wife, custodial parent of their 15 year old daughter.

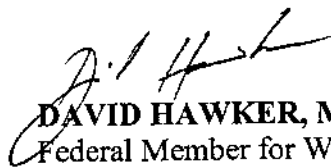
Mr. [REDACTED] initial grievance to our office was in regard to his daughter staying with him for 7 nights concurrently for which he believed he should not have to pay his ex-wife \$141.00 for that period. My electorate staff explained that child support is based on an entire calendar year and his daughter would have to stay with him for 110 nights or more in the year for his payments to be reduced. Mr. [REDACTED] argued that although his daughter has frequent and regular visits with him it was not possible for her to stay over night because of school. Mr. [REDACTED]s daughter lives with her mother (his ex-wife) in another town.

Mr. [REDACTED] accepted this, however, he remains unhappy with the current system. Mr. [REDACTED] works very hard and feels his money goes straight into the pocket of his ex-wife currently not working and in a de-facto relationship with another man, also not working, both on Centrelink payments, somewhat lucrative!

Mr. [REDACTED] would like to have more control over the money he provides for his daughter's upbringing. It is possible for him to set up a trust fund or something similar for his daughter, however his wife must be in total agreement with this and she is not.

My question to the Standing Committee is; what improvements are being investigated to meet the needs of parents like Mr. [REDACTED]?

Yours sincerely


DAVID HAWKER, MP
Federal Member for Wannon

Ref: Document in Unnamed/dh:lh