

Submission No: 1652

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Secretary:

Custody

My name is [REDACTED] I thank you for allowing me to speak today
Since writing my submission I have had second thoughts on some points.

Children's Rights: The children should have the greater rights, their wellbeing, education, their future and health plus a moral standard must be set. These things should be of utmost importance. The parent who will provide these things for the child or children should have the greater say.

There is no way of changing the parents, they are the ones who have brought these children into the world but neither the mother or the father should use them as blackmail against the other.

Children should be able to have a better life than their parents and grandparents.

Fathers Rights:

Here are three situations I know where fathers either have been or are being denied the rights to be involved in the raising of their children.

No: 1 I know a twenty-five year old woman who is one of four children, all with different fathers. She has not spoken to her mother for three years. She states she didn't know that Christmas was a happy time until she met her boyfriend and his family. Her past Christmas's had all been spent with family fights. When she first met this family she was very defensive, she had a lot of hang-ups of witch she is gradually breaking down

No: 2 Mother part aborigine, father fifth generation European Australian, when these children were born both parents were drug users His parents tried to get custody of these children, but were always told they were better with their mother. They were always leaving them with their parents or other people. He has now straightened himself out and is doing fine. Several months ago she left these children with another woman who after several days arrived on his grandmothers doorstep saying I have a job to feed my own let alone these as well. They only had the cloths they were wearing. They then moved in with their father, who clothed them and got them settled in school. He tried to get custody of them but because he didn't know her address he couldn't get anything started. About two weeks ago she turns up and the girl who is nine years old then went with her the boy aged six refused to go. When these children were living with their mother before they used to scavenge for food in garbage cans, roam the streets and had even been taken home by the police. The schools would feed them. They told their father and his grandmother these things. These children have been to far to many schools to remember and moved home that many times they want keep shifting.

No: 3. One mother First child a daughter now eleven years old she has changed schools somewhere between thirteen and twenty times. A school report earlier this year said she had a lot of work and needed to improve a lot to be ready for high school next year. She has changed schools twice since then. She has one father. Second child a son now seven, has a different father, repeating year one, now sixth change of school. This child rebels against change, he loves to be cuddled, she has

told me he doesn't need them she didn't get any when she was young so why should they. She condemns his father in front of him and says he is just like his father.

These two children don't see their fathers.

Third child a daughter now four years old different father

Forth child a daughter now twenty month old has the same father as forth.

Child three and four father is trying to have as much contact with them as she will allow. She married this man on the seventh of September last year and left him a week before Easter and has now moved in with another man.

The little four year old has told me that mummy told her that when she marries new man they will be rich and then she can go to toy world. That new man is rich and owns a farm (new man is a farmhand and doesn't own the farm. Four year old has also told me she is going to be a mummy and marry a rich man. I told her she had to grow up first and could also do other things first. This child also told her father and I she had a new daddy. Telling a child this when their father is still trying to be a father is playing with the Childs mind eg. Mental abuse.

This little girl will be starting school next year. Is she going to be denied an education like her half brother and sister have been so far?

Their mother was pregnant with no. three within a month of meeting father three and from then ^{on} a threatened to leave with his children to get things she wanted (Used children as blackmail) She left many times and returned when he meet her demands. Has been father to children No 1 & 2. She is now refusing to let him see children No 1 & 2.

She promises children they can attend activities and then changes her mind.eg. Eldest child started to attend guides but mother decided she didn't have time to take her.

Four year has hardly been to any pre school. These days if they don't go to pre school they will be behind when they start school. The older children often mess school is she wants to go visiting.

Children have a right to a proper Education to enable them to have a future career To get employment these days you have to have a proper education to be able to be accreted or do an apprenticeship

Children need Activities e.g. sport, guides, music ECT.

Multiple fathers in my opinion it is a hame when on multiple fathers for children one time it had a stigma. Girl can make one mistake, but in this day and age they shouldn't make any. Mother also told she an abortion between Nos. 1 & 2

She has also denied the father his girls when family gatherings have occurred twice since she left, (she knew about one of these functions before she moved out and they were not grog shows)

Parents should set healthy Moral standards, so as the children will grow up proper healthy moral outlook on life, so as to aim for a proper family of their own. With the amount of sexually transmitted dieses around these days it is about time we aimed at getting back to the days before free love and marriage became the bases for a family The child or children's future should be considered

Greater assessment is needed as to break-up of marriages. Where as there should be a reason for a partner to leave a marriage there should be a fault for a break-up and divorce.

Parents should work at keeping a family together. Marriage should be a union of two people not just a function

Children in danger:

Moving from one partner to another is putting the children in danger whether it be the mother or the father dragging these children from one place to another in and out of relationships is placing these children in danger, we hear about it all the time. Medical assessment mental in some cases where a parent has to keep moving or has a mental problem medical assessment should be attended and appropriate treatment or action should be taken.

Children come first

Parents living too far apart: Where the parent with the children doesn't work and the other does then the one with the children should live close enough so as the children can visit or stay with the other parent without changing schools and that parent can attend any special functions or school activities the children may have.

If family have special gatherings the children should be able to attend these with whichever parent has this activity.

Children need love and affection

Non-relatives being called Nan pop uncle and aunts is confusing and misleading.

Selfish desires of adults should never exceed the needs of the children that they bring into the world

Immoral situations moral danger Children should not be placed in these situations.

Condemns fathers in front of children

Many parents require greater commitment to children and to relationship.

They are lacking common sense.

I thank you for listening to me and hope what I have said will help you to make some decisions as to the wellbeing of the children that are caught in the middle of these situations.

I do believe in some cases they are better with their fathers in other cases with their mothers and if both parents work together they can share their children. The children and their education come first.

The cost of a parent fighting for custody is far too great that money should be spent on the children and not on court costs. The child should be placed where the best care is available even if that is a working father. That is more likely to teach the child of his or her worth and not rely on handouts.

Education is always a policy topic in politics yet children can be pulled from one school to another, this is abuse and the education department should be able to place restrictions on these children being moved and custody given to the stable parent.

I will leave you with this thought. If a man or woman were a prostitute and took their children to work with them Dev's would swoop and take those children. Parents that swap partners are putting their children in the same situation.

Thanking You

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]