

From: Wright, David  
Sent: Friday, 8 August 2003 2:52 PM  
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)  
Subject: Government Inquiry

House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 848

Date Received: 8-8-03

Secretary: .....

TO  
Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs  
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry  
Department of the House of Representatives  
Parliament house  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

FROM  
David Wright  
2C Hazel Road Moruya 2537  
PH: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

As a father of three beautiful children who separated from their mother over five years ago and have been through the court system several times at all levels, I wish to make recommendations to the Inquiry. Briefly, I have fought to have as much contact with my children as possible (hoping to acquire 50% of time) or to have them reside with me. Why should a father have to fight the courts and their mother at all? It has been years of heartbreak and anguish to myself and those around me not to mention a \$40,000 debt to solicitors which will take 9 years to pay off. This money could have been put to a much better use, such as the children's education and upbringing, but the way the system works virtually makes it impossible not to use solicitors if the other party does. I wish to be a good father to my children but when contact is limited and restrained it makes it very difficult to have the input most fathers would like to have. My children are the ones that suffer the most from all this. They do not understand why they cannot be with me more. The repercussions of the way the current system is and how it affects children is well documented.

My recommendations are:

Each parent is equal in the eyes of the children. There should be no primary carer, they are equal carers

If one party wishes to relocate, this should be mutual negotiation or the children stay where the status quo is maintained.

The best interests of the children are paramount

Ideally, week on week off is fair for all.

The father and mother have equal rights. (it is bias at present)

Family Law counselling needs to be severely addressed as they are bias towards the mother because of the current system and how it works. The courts usually follow the counsellors recommendations which are not always true, correct, right or fair.

The mother should not be able to dictate the fathers "access". Through self, counselling or courts.

The terminology should be changed so fathers are not belittled by words such as "visitation rights" to see their own children.

Mothers should be penalised heavily if they do not comply to agreements or orders. Same goes for false and or misleading information to the police so as win their custody dispute.

The whole system needs streamlining.

CHILD SUPPORT

It is to complex, needs to be simpler and fairer.

Payment should be on net income not gross, especially for wage and salary workers.

It needs to accomodate for casual workers (1 in 4 Australians are casual workers. many fathers revert to this so theycan maintain quality time with their kids)

The percentage schedule needs to be reviewed fairly.It is stiffling the fathers life and the quality of contact time because of depleted moies available.

Fair is Fair. Why do fathers pay maintenance on any monies over \$6,000 yet mothers can earn up \$32,000 before paying maintenance. Also the father has no say in what the money is used for.

If the father has a new partner, why is her income is taken into account yet is not the same in reverse.

Equal is Equal, Fair is Fair. This should relate to time with children and the finances involved.

For the sake of all children and their parents, equality after separation.

Yours sincerely

David Wright

Concerned father

PS Please do not hesitate to contact if need be on the above address.

\*\*\*\*\*

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain privileged information or confidential information or both. If you are not the intended recipient please delete it and notify the sender.

\*\*\*\*\*