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Secretary:

From: mark.Overington [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 14 July 2003 11:59 AM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: family law

I would like to say that if Australia were able to set the mark for decent, humane contact arrangements between fathers and children it would be an act that would be recorded in history. This may sound melodramatic, but it is not. The treatment of fathers and their children by the Anglophone countries is scandalous and cruel. I am currently putting together a thesis comparing the legal treatment, and social attitude of the general public, in the Anglophone countries, towards fathers; to that in Germany towards Jews in the mid-1930s; and it makes terrifying reading. Whilst I do not believe that children's fathers will ever suffer such a barbaric outcome as did the German Jews, I do think that unless drastic action is taken now in one of the Anglophone countries towards abolishing family law and establishing an egalitarian and accountable system, a bureaucratic injustice on the same scale as Apartheid will be committed in the West. Australia commands far more respect in England and America than European countries such as Sweden - where decent laws have already been introduced. No-one is brave enough to declare publicly that fathers should not have the same rights as mothers: but many of those that do so blatantly profit from the fact that fathers have less rights. It would be in keeping with the progressive and common sense reputation of your country if you passed practical, written laws to the effect that parents should have genuine - physically - equal rights - to parenting. Please - put Britain and the US to shame. My country has become little more than a pathetic political satellite for the latter, and it is from the latter that the ludicrous lawyer-friendly system of family law was imported.

