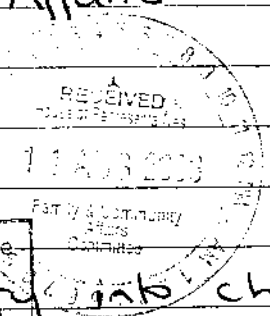


[REDACTED]

The Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee of Family & Community Affairs  
Child Custody Inquiry  
Depr of House of Reps.  
Parliament House ACT 2600.



House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Family and Community Affairs  
Submission No: 685  
Date Received: 11-8-03  
Secretary

I am writing in regards to the inquiry into child custody arrangements.

I believe the current Federal government propose to automatically split custodial arrangements between parents.

I believe that each case needs to be treated on its merits.

I have been a party to an access dispute for the last 2 years. In my situation my 8 year old daughter although happy to see her father is adamant that she does not want to be alone with him. He is from interstate and is unable to offer anyone who is familiar to [REDACTED] to supervise his access visits.

Despite [REDACTED] women trying to persuade [REDACTED] to leave their supervision and be alone with him she refuses.

Automatic joint custody would be an absolute disaster in our situation.

Her father, I believe, is quite unstable, suffering dementia and mood swings.

Our current research is about children faring better with both parents in their life however I believe where one parent is potentially damaging we cannot subject our children to such a fate.

Children these days are very free thinking and independent at a much earlier age than even in the last decade. I believe it is time for the Courts and the Government to stop thinking about women's rights or men's rights and start focussing on the rights of our children. They need to be listened to and taken notice of. Is the government prepared to be responsible for a generation of damaged children whilst trying to obtain votes?

Yours sincerely

