

Submission No: **853**

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Secretary: .....

**From:** David Bowtell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 August 2003 7:44 PM  
**To:** Committee, FCA (REPS)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into child custody arrangements

To the Committee

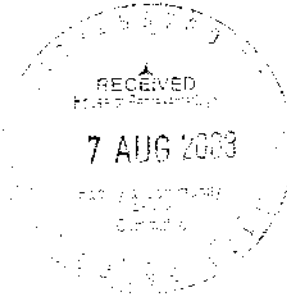
Just a few words on my plight for you to consider.

Due to no fault by me my wife decided that she no longer wished to continue the marriage, thus I was left with no other choice but to move out for benefit of my children (after all they should not have to suffer any more than is necessary), parents not getting on is not good for them. From this position I was forced to give up the majority of our assets to my wife, I was left with a 1996 Falcon car and a runabout (boat) and my Superannuation (which I cannot touch for many years).

As a working parent I cannot have access to my children very much (I cannot care for them while I am at work), on top of this I pay 1/3rd of my wages in child support and this only contributes to my plight as I cannot afford to buy or rent a suitable dwelling even if I was able to have more access.

The unfair injustice is only made worse when court papers for property settlement clearly state that my wife is now Financially better off (income) each week than when we lived as a family, as it appears she is paid to separate and I am forced to live in virtual poverty and not have the same benefits that are available to her. The children of course are the weapon or instrument that are used against us and after all the majority of Fathers have to or do work and this means that access to our children is limited and we are then penalised for it.

Yours Sincerely  
David Bowtell



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