

Submission No: 1348

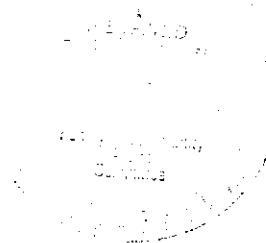
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5 Ida Street
ASQUITH

NSW 2077
Secretary

28th July, 2003

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



Dear Sir

SUBMISSION FOR YOUR REPORT TO PARLIAMENT

In your deliberations re Dad's rights in family separations, I am sure you will have received many submissions suggesting a proximity law to prevent mothers moving a long way away from the family home. This is the solution to many of the problems, and I urge you to this conclusion.

Should this not eventuate, an excellent way to reduce the incidence of distant relocation would be to reduce the payments required of Dad in relationship to his reduced capacity to be a part of his children's lives. If they move out of his reach altogether-no money. Mum will think twice about the new location.

A further point in need of urgent attention is the total lack of a deterrent to stop Mum from ignoring Court Orders re Dad's custody.

Currently, laws or no laws, if Mum refuses to let Dad take the children on his court appointed day, he does not get them and no action is taken. Dad is told- 'take her to court'. He has no money, and if he did again, she can just ignore the orders! Conversely, if Dad is late returning the children (even by a couple of hours) the Police will take action! How damnably unjust and discriminatory!

Isn't it interesting that the Sexual Discrimination Act can not be used in Family Law.

The system is woefully unjust.

Please fix it.

Yours faithfully

(MRS) MELANIE CLARK