

House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Family and Community Affairs

b. s. s. bon fard  
C C A I. H. O. R.  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA, ACT 2600.

Submission No: 524  
Date Received: 8-8-03  
Secretary:

Judith Law  
91 Edward Street  
Gunnedah 2380

August 5, 2003

To Committee Secretary:

Firstly, I would like to inform the Committee that not enough publicity was given to the public informing them of this inquiry, it cost me almost four dollars to photocopy information on submission, I gave away 3 copies to people who anxiously wanted to have input into this inquiry. I feel that a letter box drop for such an important issue would have been justified. Prior to the referendum (Republic) endless amounts of publicity was generated in the media. And a ridiculous amount of paper and money is wasted during elections.

While I feel this inquiry is worthwhile and long overdue more focus must be given to keeping families together, for the past ten years I have begged and lobbied for more assistance to keep families together I even begged for my family to be made a test case as to why marriages were failing because I realised that couples suffer an emotional breakdown and children are expected to cope with problems that adults are not able to.

If couples are allowed to vent their anger to each other during positive counselling sessions then many marriages could be saved.

Yours faithfully Judith Law

Committee Secretary,  
 Standing Committee on  
 Family and Community Affairs,  
 Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry.  
 House of Representatives, Parliament  
 House Canberra, ACT, 2600.

Judith Law  
 91 Edward Street  
 Gunmedah 2380 N.  
 August 4, 2003  
 [Redacted]

To Committee Secretary  
 Having lived with the effects of marriage  
 break-ups and divorce for the past  
 ten years I strongly urge this committee  
 to recommend that more assistance be  
 given to separating couples.

The rights of adults exceed those of the  
 children they bring into the world.

My daughters marriage was long term  
 4 years together 13 years marriage they  
 had three children all girls ages range  
 from 4, 6, 7 years, while trying to  
 reconcile, New Age Counsellors encourag  
 my devastated daughter to go out and  
 have a good time, which she did. and  
 that she was too intelligent for he husband  
 and should do a University course, which  
 she also did, which I consider was the  
 major factor that denied my 3 granddaughte  
 the right to grow with a mother + Father  
 my 7 year old granddaughter became th  
 "mother" to her sisters.

My sons marriage could have been save  
 but more assistance is given for couples  
 to separate than to stay together. If any  
 member of this Committee sincerely wants  
 to keep families together - Please recommend  
 that this government send real people out  
 into the real world and record the reality of  
 divorce and unresolved grief. yours faithfully,

RECEIVED  
 PARLIAMANTARY SECRETARIAT

PARLIAMANTARY SECRETARIAT  
 COMMITTEE

The only way I am able to sum up my feelings is in one word ANGER. My granddaughters are also angry with their father they LOVE and HATE him; at the same TIME this is what they have had to live with all the days of their young lives.

Their grandfather and myself have helped care for our granddaughters before and after the separation and divorce. Their grandmother (father's, mother) and myself desperately fought a united effort to reunite this family WHY? would we do so if it was not best for our grandchildren. Ten years of begging and pleading to members of Parliament. Letters have gone unheeded, its as if my letters have gone to the DEAD LETTER OFFICE I would have been better off writing to SANTA-CLAUS asking him to give my granddaughters what they so desperately need a MOTHER AND A FATHER. Yes they would have loved their father to have JOINT CUSTODY as they have rarely seen or heard from their father. My daughter did her University Course. She has health problems. Son-in-law has a vietnamese wife and 2 children.

Cynthia Lou...