

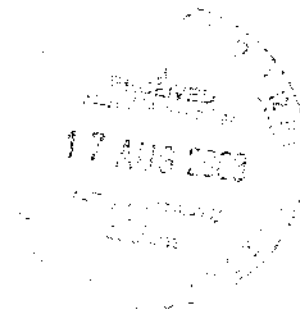
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
Submission No:	796
Date Received:	17-8-03
Secretary:	

From: Gary Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 27 September 1905 2:55 AM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: Inquiry into child custody arrangements

Submission to

Committee Secretary
Standing committee on Family and Community Affairs
Child custody Arrangements Inquiry
Department House Representatives

from Gary Clark
1900 Kangaroo Creek Rd.
Kangaroo Creek
via Grafton. 2460.



Submission : Inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation:

All rights must be respected:

Children's rights and the rights of parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins must be considered. This is not presently the case. Along with rights come responsibilities. These are also often ignored or obscured.

Co-operation not conflict:

System presently designed to produce conflict and vested interests exist to promote such conflict. Lawyers are able to reproduce lies and trivialities as if fact and their defence is that this is what they are told. No penalties exist for producing lies or for the promotion of those lies.

Refusal of contact:

To refuse access to a non custodial parent has psychological impact upon a child and also that parent. Those parents who do this are guilty of child abuse. A system that tolerates this is also guilty of child abuse.

Child payments

Child payments are not linked to access. This reinforces child abuse where non custodial parents are refused access, yet make family payments. The hip pocket nerve may reduce cases of state sanctioned child abuse.

In separation as a father I found the following emotionally supportive and useful. I can recommend these to any separated parent:

- fathering and separation course: This was conducted by Clarence Valley Community Programs and was brilliant. It helped me through the initial stages of separation from my children.
- Dads in Distress: This was very supportive emotionally from my separation from children
- The input of women. I have found that women were better equipped to provide insight into things that did not make sense. I feel that they are able to see things in its component parts rather than men where we seem to look at the whole detail.