

10 OCT 2003

FAXED
13/10/03

Mr Denis Stewart
46 Kanturk Street
FERNEY GROVE QLD 4055

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Date: 6th October 2003

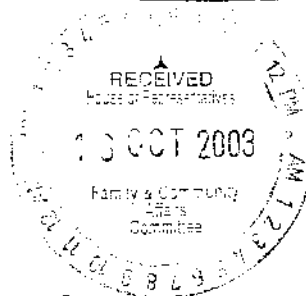
House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: **1598**

Date Received: **13-10-03**

Secretary:

Mr Peter Dutton
Member for Dickson
PO Box 2012,
STRATHPINE CENTRE QLD 4500



Dear Mr Dutton,

Recently I read your article in the September Hills Echo and would like to put forward a case for parents paying Child Support for a child who is 16 years and is working in a full time position. I have spoken to Child Support and understand that I am still required to pay Child Support after the child turns 16yrs and is working in a full time job.

I believe that when a person is under 18years and is working full time and exceeds the Youth Allowance the law is unfair to the supporting parent who is still required to contribute the same amount, with no regard to the earnings of the person under 18years. As in my case and no doubt a large percentage of the population the average family has more than one child, and the requirement is to contribute according to number of children. I find that with three children under 18 years that the amount I pay on a weekly basis and still have to meet the house payments, and electricity etc, the common compulsory expenses that it places a great strain on an individual.

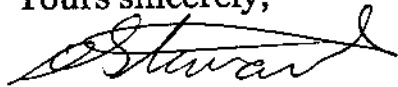
I would like to see the law changed to allow a parent to be able to contribute to the child's needs on a need basis. I do not have the pleasure of taking my children shopping to purchase clothing, to pay for outings as I contribute through the Child Support System. Children expect parents to purchase items they need or would like to have and should not have to hear I don't have any money it has all gone to your mother ask her for the new clothes etc.

I think that the law should be changed so that the supporting parent, the parent who has to contribute to Child Support, should be able to have a say in how the contribution is spent to benefit the child. It seems that the contribution is not always used for the education and clothing as the children continue to make demands on the contributing parent with little regard to understanding that the parent has given through the deduction in wages.

If you can put forward this example to the committee I would be much appreciative as I feel I am in a no win situation.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D Stewart".

DENIS STEWART