

House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: **1367**

Date Received: **7-8-03**

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Date : 6/8/03  
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Ken Ticehurst MP  
P.O. Box 407 The Entrance NSW 2261  
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RE : Child Access Forum.

Dear Ken,

I'm unable to attend the forum this evening but would like to offer the following points for a submission.

- 1) I'm a divorced father of 2 children aged 10 & 14. I separated 3&1/2 years ago & have always paid child support
- 2) My former wife came out of the property settlement with a 100 acre property with house, enough cash to buy another modern, 4 bed brick home, a car & everything in the family home( furniture etc).My former wife is debt free, owns her new home, has 2 cars ( 1 brand new \$20,000 toyota), has a job & has a reasonable lifestyle.
- 3) I'm in favour of, & have always wanted to support my children.
- 4) **The amount of child support I pay far exceeds what it actually costs.**
  - a) The child support formula , obviously, does not take into account a custodial parent getting a substantial property settlement. (enough to re-establish themselves with a modern home debt free.)
  - b) My calculations add up to \$60 per week, per child, if housing them was taken care of in the property settlement.
  - c) These calculations are accurate & based on experience. ( 14 years as a parent, 11 of which before separation.)
  - d) Both parents should be sharing the costs of the kids equally.( ie, 2 kids = \$60 per parent per week.)
  - e) I pay \$200 per week + 60% of any extra "special needs".
- 5) I have to re- establish with no possibility of a home lone. ( Banks will not lend money to paying parents of child support who are paying 27% of their income.)

- 6) **The Child support Agency does not administer how the child support is spent.** ( My former wife uses the money for other things including her own, and her mothers lifestyle. She also refuses to buy medicines for my children that exceed \$20 " because they are too dear".) My former wife does not have private health insurance because she knows I will have to pay 60% of any important health issues with the children anyway.
- 7) **I still have to pay child support to my former wife when I have the children.** I have access every second weekend & half of school holidays mid year & 2 weeks at Christmas. While the children are in my care & I pay for them & also have to pay my former wife. ( Whilst struggling to provide a reasonable holiday for the kids at christmas ,in addition, I have to pay \$400 to her.)
- 8) **THIS SYSTEM DOES NOT WORK** – It causes nothing but heartache for the good, responsible fathers that are genuine. It distances these fathers from their kids. It motivates paying parents to find ways to avoid paying, & is very lucrative for the custodial parent , particularly if former partner (paying parent) was a good provider.

Yours sincerely



Greg Baggs