

Forbes, Bev (REPS)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 20 October 2003 12:56 PM
To: Committee, FGA (REPS)
Subject: My support for Shared Parenting on Family and Community Affairs

Importance: High

Submission No: 1681
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CONFIDENTIAL

I wish to keep my details private because for some reason, I feel humiliated that as a father I am in this situation.

I am recently seperated from my partner, whom I did not live with but we have had a child who is now 11 months old.

As a man who has always been known to be honest, honourable, hard working and responsible, I am gobsmacked by the duress I am now placed under by my ex-partner for more and more money, in exchange for the compromised time I get to see my child.

Oddly, my partner had integrity before the birth of our son, and initially insisted that she would pay back the excessive funds I gave her (note: I was paying her mortgage and her mother's medical needs, on top of every expense she had).....even though she works (apart from maternity leave), for a salary of \$85k p/a.

Over the last year, I have paid her over \$60,000 in total, and now she is getting \$600 p/w from me, but is insisting that she should get \$1000 per week.

I believe my partner has been emboldened by the system, and now keeps making the comments that "the bitch wants more".

My son needs his father, but this system is simply encouraging me to simply give up any hope of having contact with my son, and simply pay whatever the CSA determines that I must pay (which would be peanuts compared to what I am paying now.)

I desperately want to be a good father who is there for my son. I do everything for my son from feeding him, changing his nappies and playing with him. However, I can only do this now because of extra "financial gifts" that I give to my ex, but she is demanding more money and this will soon become a real issue, because I cannot afford \$1000 per week.

She claims that she will do everything possible to ensure that I will not see my son again unless I relent. I am taking her threats seriously.

All I want is joint custody of my son. As my son's mother, she too has every rights to equal custody, but these opportunities of exploitation will never encourage my ex-partner to co-operate with me on fair terms.

If the legislation was to change and pre-sumptive joint custody was to be implemented, I know that this would bring my partner back to her senses, and we would probably not have to require legal proceedings or hostilities.

I would like to thank those men with the courage to have made this review a reality. I will say however that having visisted a number of lawyers recently for my case, they all told me that I should not expect anything to come from this review.

If something does come of this review and some equity is created in this difficult area, then I can assure all that this life-long Labor party supporter will be forever in-debted to Mr Howard for listening to the silent suffering. I will forever be in-debted!