

Mr Elton Humphery
Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia
By email
02/10/06

Dear Mr. Humphery,

I wish to make a submission to the senate Inquiry into Child Support Legislation Amendment (Reform of the Child Support Scheme - New Formula and Other Measures) Bill 2006

To my understanding the CSAct was initiated as an experiment in the 1980s in an attempt to achieve higher compliance with child maintenance requirements. This is a laudable ideal, but it has unfortunately failed miserably.

The entity that has grown from this ideal, the CSA, has proved itself corrupt and unviable. It appears to be controlled and staffed by misandrist ideologues whose primary goal is to punish the paying parent (typically fathers). Lies, deceit, manipulation, ambush tactics, denigration and automatic judgement of "Guilt" of the payer are all tools that are regularly utilised by CSA staff to achieve this goal using the pretence that they are acting "In The Best Interests Of The Children". Unfortunately, the CSA seems to regard the best interests of children as being at best secondary and incidental, and have merely succeeded in creating a new underclass of working poor comprising mostly payers but also some payees.

It is widely known that a large percentage of payers are unemployed. I believe that many of these payers choose to be unemployed as the draconian "Deem and Destroy" powers regularly exercised by the CSA make it untenable for them to continue to participate in the workforce. I also believe that if the CS system were fairer, these same payers would be willing to return to the workforce and contribute to society in a positive way, and contribute to the welfare of their children.

In my own personal case, I have been told by the CSA that I should move from my family home to a region offering more lucrative employment prospects. I have been seriously misrepresented during the COA process. I have been made out to be a liar, and have had lies told about me by CSA officers (to my detriment) while the payee's statements have been believed without question resulting in me being forced into debt via the 'capacity to earn' travesty. I was also told by the CSA that my new wife essentially "did not exist" when she had the temerity to complain to them about their tactics, but I was threatened with Enforcement Action by another CSA officer a week later if I did not submit my wife's private financial details to them. I have been humiliated and berated by CSA officers that have been corrupted by the power granted them by the CSActs. However, I regard my treatment at the hands of the CSA as being mild compared with many of the case histories I have read over the last few years. I regard myself as having survived their hateful machinery relatively unscathed.

In summary, the CSA has proved itself to be a corrupt, biased, discriminatory and vindictive agency. The current CS scheme has proved itself unworkable. I believe that instead of trying to ineffectually patch it up (as these current legislative changes propose to do), the scheme should be abandoned, the CSActs should be obsoleted, and the CSA replaced with a more accountable system that will be fairer to payers, payees and (most importantly) to children.

Yours Sincerely,

Steve Royal.

*"The state must declare the child to be the most precious treasure of the people. As long as the government is **perceived** as working for the benefit of the children, the people will happily endure almost any curtailment of liberty and almost any deprivation."*

Adolf Hitler

"What good fortune for governments that the people do not think."

Adolf Hitler