

Further to the below, please find a scenario. This ACTUALLY occurs, but figures and details have been changed to protect the identification of any parties.

Father has remarried, has 2 children from second marriage. Father earns \$45K, his wife does not work. Household income, \$45K for family of 4.

Mother has remarried and has 2 children from first marriage, none from second. Her husband earns approx \$5 million per year and she has a business that earns \$2 million per year. She pays herself ZERO through the tax system. Household income \$7 million for family of 4.

Father pays child support to mother, as theoretically under the current system, mother is unable to support the children. Practically the mothers household earns \$7 million a year, against the fathers of \$45K per year..

You can see from this simple, yet happening, scenario that the current system is a farce.

I, and many others, have looked at the Child Support system from every angle trying to find a fair and reasonable means of apportioning financial care and there simply isn't one. The conclusion reached, given all the varying arguments from all interested parties, is, as below, everybody, from parents, children to the wider community, would be far better off if the system was scrapped.

While this would, at first glance, be politically unpalatable, all it requires is the publishing of REAL WORLD studies and opponents of scrapping the system wouldn't have a leg to stand on.

Regards,

Mark Millard

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission to the Inquiry into the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Further 2008 Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2008.

In particular, the Child Support System.

I am yet to meet a person, on either side of the child support argument, that is satisfied with the Child Support (CS) system.

The CS system was originally designed to meet a ridiculous statement by Bob Hawke and to stop the attacks on the government of the day by feminist lobby groups.

The original system was designed to punish fathers.

This has been refined a number of times and the CS system now punishes both fathers and mothers for having children, children for being born and the general community at large.

Community at Large

There are stories everywhere you turn of tax dodges on both sides of the CS argument, to under report income. Yet there is no fairer system than using a taxable income to determine child support. This has the effect of robbing the community of billions (YES BILLIONS) of dollars of tax revenues. There are no shortage of stories from both sides of the CS argument, of people not working at all due to the effect of a job on CS payments/receipts. This has the effect of robbing the community of millions of man hours of contributions to it.

Children

CS causes conflict between parents. This affects children. This affects custody arrangements.. This is a complete anti children system. Very few children could actually be shown to have ANY BENEFIT whatsoever from the CS system.

Payers

Payers are effectively punished financially for having children. These children don't live with them, but they have to support them.

Payees

Payees get a free ride, until the CS payments stop. Then they have no skills and no work prospects and spend the rest of their life on welfare.

Recommendation

Child Support system is scrapped altogether and welfare payments are adjusted to ensure that a survival payment is made to ensure the survival of parents. Programs that give parents enough skills to find a job are put in place and parents that can't find a job after 6 months, lose payments and custody of their children.

Regards,

Mark Millard