

# IMPORTANT LETTER

House of Representatives Standing Committee  
 on Family and Community Affairs  
 Submission No: 17  
 Date Received: 25-7-03  
 Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

To: Committee Secretary  
 Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs  
 Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry  
 Department of the House of Representatives  
 Parliament House  
 Canberra ACT 2600

From: Shane Walsh  
 1/17 Cassowary Ave  
 Werribee Vic 3030

25.07.03



Reference: Inquiry into Child Custody arrangements

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to make the following submission to your enquiry into Child Custody arrangements:

**Contact with Children**

Given the best interest of the child is the paramount consideration, what other factors should be taken into account in deciding the respective time each parent should spend with his or her children post-separation.

In particular, whether there should be a presumption that the children will spend equal time with each parent, and if so, in what circumstances should such a presumption be rebutted.

It will also look at the circumstances in which a court should order that children of separated parents have contact with other persons – including their grandparents.

**Answer:**

In this day and age why should the mother automatically get full custody of the children?

In these trying times you will find both parents work.

It is going back over 20 years that the male was the prominent provider and the woman stayed at home with the children.

If the male wishes to take full custody he should be given equal consideration and if given custody the women should be forced to pay Child Support.

The current Child Support Formula is **DISCRIMINATION** of the highest degree.

Spending equal time with each parent would be very unsettling. Children need to have a permanent 'Home Base'. Children are extremely resilient, however, they must have a place they call home, a place where they can leave their belongings permanently.

The courts cannot have one set regulation for all cases; the courts must judge each case on its merits.

**Child Support Formula**

The committee will investigate whether the existing child support formula works fairly for both parents in relation to their care of, and contact with their children.

**Answer:**

I notice this question is worded very shrewdly

I know this is not the answer you are expecting nor want

You want to know if the existing child support formula works fairly for both parents in relation to their CARE OF and CONTACT with their children

**The existing Child Support Formula is a joke and not fair at all!**

**The existing Child Support Formula is unjust and requires urgent changes.**

The current Child Support Formula has the parent who has full custody receiving full Child Support Payments even when the Children are not in their care

This puts added pressure on the non-custodial parent, whose financial resources are already stretched to the maximum and beyond.

The Children then think the non-custodial parent is stingy and will not take them places, not understanding that all of the non-custodial parents spare cash is being sent to the custodial parent, and that the non-custodial parent has no spare money to spend on their Children.

Again, why should the women, these days, get automatic custody of the children?

The current formula used for making Child Support Payments is sending me Bankrupt

**The formula must be changed immediately to the following:**

**Payments to be taken out of NETT pay NOT gross pay**

**Payments to be taken out of nett pay for a 40 Hour week and NO MORE**

If the person paying Child Support wishes to earn some extra money, to retain a comfortable lifestyle, at the cost of spending quality time with their family and any type of Social life, then that extra pay must be theirs to keep.

I am sure you will find the real parent who wants to retain custody will step forward once they know the money they will be getting is reasonable and not the outlandish amount currently thrown upon them.

The current system allows the person receiving Child Support Payments to rip off the system, not spend payments for necessities like shoes, underwear etc and get away with this time and time again. The current system believes it is a breach of privacy to ask how Child Support payments are being spent.

Custodial Parents receiving payments from Non Custodial parents should be forced to show receipts and an itemised account of how the money is being spent. These receipts should be checked, by both Child Support, and the Non - Custodial parent and any irregularities should be dealt with.

**AN URGENT AMENDMENT IS REQUIRED**

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

*For Shane Walsh*

Shane Walsh



**Child Support**  
Helping parents support  
their responsibilities

# Inquiry into child custody arrangements

## Helping parents get involved

*The Government has announced a parliamentary inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation.*

*This important step seeks to address community concerns about the operation of contact and child support arrangements for separated families and reflects the Government's commitment to ensuring that, to the greatest extent possible, children benefit from the love and care of both parents when they separate.*

*The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs will investigate the following:*

### **Contact with children**

Given the best interests of the child are the paramount consideration, what other factors should be taken into account in deciding the respective time each parent should spend with their children post-separation.

In particular, whether there should be a presumption that children will spend equal time with each parent, and if so, in what circumstances should such a presumption be rebutted.

It will also look at the circumstances in which a court should order that children of separated parents have contact with other persons - including their grandparents.

### **Child Support Formula**

The committee will investigate whether the existing child support formula works fairly for both parents in relation to their care of, and contact with, their children.

CSA will have the opportunity to provide input to the Committee. We do not yet know what format this will take.

### **What can I tell a client who wants to get involved in the inquiry?**

- The Government has set up a parliamentary inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation.
- The Child Support formula is one of the aspects the committee will be looking at.
- Submissions to the Inquiry are being sought by the Committee and must be lodged by 8 August 2003.
- If you are making a submission, you should obtain guidelines on the preparation of a submission. This is available from the committee's website. The website address is [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fca/childcustody/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fca/childcustody/index.htm).
- The address for lodging submissions is:  
 Committee Secretary  
 Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs  
 Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry  
 Department of the House of Representatives  
 Parliament House  
 Canberra ACT 2600  
 Fax: (02) 6277 4844  
 Email: [FCA.REPS@aph.gov.au](mailto:FCA.REPS@aph.gov.au)
- The Committee is to report back to Parliament by 31 December 2003.