

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 291

Date Received: 15-7-03

Secretary:

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 15 July 2003 12:30 AM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)

Subject: Inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation

Dear Sir,

Somebody from the Child Support Agency told me about your Inquiry. I do not believe the child support formula works fairly at all. It seems to encourage paying parents to seek unemployment benefits to avoid paying while supporting parents are left to work full time jobs while also looking after the family. This could also lead to further family problems. I know the system is designed to be equal to both sexes, but it is far from equal. How do I know? I am a single father who has sole custody of 2 children and I receive very little in the way of child support. On most occasions when I have discussions with the Child Support Agency they seem to favour the female side and this was very obvious when I approached the agency with an objection to the amount I was being paid.

I am not exactly sure how I would remedy the situation, but when the paying parent is being financially supported by her new partner I feel it would help if his income were to be taken into account.

I realise your Child Support Legislation will probably never be perfect and there have been huge improvements over the last 20 years, but now could be a good time to investigate the matter further to make even more improvements.

Thanks for your time

