

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 5 September 2003 2:15 PM  
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)  
Subject: Child Custody / Support enquiry

House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 1292

Date Received: 5-9-03

Secretary: .....

Parliament Enquiry into Child custody and Child Support,

I've read with interest again, that The government is investigating Child Custody arrangements and Child Support. I also submitted my beliefs to the Roger Price Government enquiry. Please refer to my submission to the Roger Price enquiry but my issues are still exactly the same as it was then.

I will never forget how I as a father, was treated by the Family Law Court of Australia in 1991 - yes 12 years ago and I still remember clearly, as a father you are emotionally and financially broken as you are processed through the Family Law Court of Australia. You may think I am joking, but suicide was a clear and present option during my Family Law court processing days.

The Court system states only 6% of cases reach judgement, that is I believe, not because of how wonderful the court system resolves the situations, it was for me, because I finally realised how hopeless the situation of getting a fair go, that you are in as a father of two young children.

I was advised by the Court ( I could use other words than advised ) but I was advised, as a father I would at best, get access arrangements of every second weekend, one half of all school holidays, I would hand over a minimum 60 % of the matrimonial home, some 60 % of my superannuation (even though I could not even access that super money at that time) and become a major part of that other unfair unjust system, called The Child Support system. I also handed over the car and just about every stick of furniture in the former matrimonial home. On top of all that, the excessive solicitor and barrister fees were building up. I was eventually emotionally and nearly financially broken.

I endured, quite a few counselling sessions, a court system day presentation, a court appointed lawyer session, one pre hearing by a judge of the Family Law Court, where on that occasion, my then ex wife's boyfriend ended up with more rights towards my then 5 and 3 year old children than I did. Thankfully that was fairly quickly reversed, and thankfully he is no longer around.

Wayne the Family Law Court and Child Support systems are as I see it still biased, as it was then the system is still unfair, as it was then and I will never how I pleaded with you in your office for change, for help, just read my file again, I asked for the Labor Party to do something about these systems, the letters to and from George Gear, the Roger Price enquiry, the list goes on and on.

Child Support at 27 % of your gross pay for two children, a boy and a girl, when as a father, I still had to provide accommodation, clothing, medical attention, toys, books, electricity & council rates for my property, transportation, food he list goes on and on. I didn't get a discount for anything because my son and daughter only stayed every second weekend and half of every school holidays. My costs in our household are very similar to that of my ex wife she still paid her rates, insurances, electricity bills etc etc

You may be pleased to know I am still seeing my now 16 yo son Beau and 14 yo Daughter Renee on my regular 2nd weekend basis and school holidays, and I have kept to that over the years. I am remarried and I am still paying my child support.

Add my name to the list of fathers that believe the Family Law system and Child Support systems are bias against men. Equality was the word for me, joint custody, joint access, and that did and was not ever going to happen then, I have had my rights as a father towards my children stolen by these systems in 1991.

At least now I was getting some part Family Tax benefit, to assist in bringing up my

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children but once again it is proved to me as father, governments don't care about working families, working fathers, trying to bring up our futures as best we can.

I am fighting a recovery notice, taken from my 2001-2002 tax return from the Family Assistance office is of \$568.24 net because I under estimated my income by about \$1770.00 gross in that financial year. It is now before the SSAT for a hearing date to be set. I will be specifically asking the Family Assistance office how to estimate contract courier income????????????????

Last financial year 2002-2003 I will also be in is strife, because my now wife was not working and I estimated the income on her not working, and once again an estimate on contract courier work. Once she obtained temp work, I've advised the Family Assistance office, it was reduced accordingly to their formula, when she obtained some more temp work, I've advised the Family Assistance office, it was reduced accordingly to their formula, once she obtained full time work, I've advised the Family Assistance office, it was stopped altogether as I am in overpayment. What stupid systems!!!!!!!!!! As it was 12 years ago and nothing has changed. Let's hold an inquiry into that!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

