

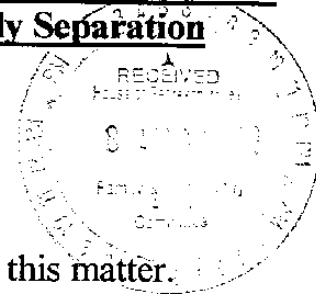


Attention:  
Committee Secretary

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	04/08/03
Submission No: <b>522</b>	
Date Received: <b>8-8-03</b>	
Secretary: .....	

**Standing Committee On Family and Community Affairs Inquiry Into  
Child Custody Arrangements In Event of Family Separation**

Submission



Recently discussion and research has been undertaken into this matter.  
Responses to this are listed below.

- 1) Before custody is even considered a 12 month cooling off period be allowed from time of separation.
- 2) Issues relating to distribution of properties and assets must be concluded through Family Court with compulsory mediation covering or extending no more than 12 months after separation.
- 3) Needs to be an independent social assessment of both parents by person to establish parents capacity to reasonably meet the following needs of children:
  - ❖ Emotional
  - ❖ Mental
  - ❖ Physical
  - ❖ Social
  - ❖ Financial
  - ❖ Recreational
  - ❖ Spiritual
- 4) Past history of both parents in terms of prior criminal record and credit records need to be investigated
- 5) Investigation of DOC's involvement, if any, with children.



- 6) If children are assessed of being at the age of reason (7-12) their views are to be taken into major account.
- 7) Both parents to attend compulsory joint separation/divorce counselling i.e. Relationships Australia.
- 8) Establishment of Children Safety Refuges.
- 9) Abolition of child support agency – dysfunctional
- 10) Cost of proceedings is prohibitive to many situations – justice as a result is often miscarried.

### **North West Community Care Response Vision Statement**

#### **General Comment**

Here at North West Community Care our focus is on a holistic approach to Community Development, bringing people together to form new friendships and meet their neighbours. This helps bring early intervention into issues as outlined above.

Please find following a profile of North West Community Care – Who we are and our vision statement. We believe our strategy is integral in bringing about real change in lifestyle and enhancing the quality of life in communities.

We would be happy to discuss our approach further with you at your convenience