

LATE SUBMISSION

Beverley Forbes  
Committee Secretary,  
Family & Community Affairs  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra

House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 1497  
Date Received: 29-9-03  
Secretary: .....

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25<sup>th</sup> Sept 2003



Dear Beverley,

Submission: Child Custody  
the Event of Family Separation

I have been advised by Shane Reid your office manager to send in a submission to the above inquiry and do hope it will be included in your report, as a submission.

I am a member of the Australian Family Association and 57 Vivand de Paul as well as a volunteer speaker for Centacare Calthe Family Services

I have prev submissions to the following enquiries, over the last 13 yrs.

- (1) 1991 Joint Parliamentary Inquiry into certain aspects of the Family Law Act
- (2) 1993 The Lyons Forum Inquiry into Families and the Economy

- (3) 1996 House of Representatives Inquiry into certain aspects of family services
- (4) 1997 Attorney General's Dept Inquiry and discussion paper on the delivery of Primary Dispute Resolution services
- (5) 1998 NSW Parliament Inquiry into Parent Education
- (6) 1999 Senate Legal & Constitutional Legislation Committee Inquiry into Provisional Amendment Bill 1999 (Family Law)
- (7) 1999 NSW Parliament Inquiry into De Facto Relationships
- (8) 2000 Commonwealth Senate Inquiry into Superannuation entitlement of same sex couple
- (9) 2000 Attorney General's Family Law Advisory Group

I wish, obviously, not to bore you with repetition, but to say that, in reading submissions to all these inquiries, I have now come to the conclusion that we, indeed, have our jobs, & the democratic process work well. What we have is a battle between forces of light (religious moral & spiritual concerns) and the forces of darkness (which often are groups or individuals who have been funded by taxation money or who are welfare recipients) in the area of family breakdown. There is a clear, sequential breakdown, caused by very short sighted

laws. The domino effect (like a legal deck of cards collapsing on itself) since the late 1960's reads like this. Artificial contraception followed by liberalised homosexuality laws, no fault (ie very easy dissolution of marriage) laws, followed by paid illegitimacy laws, followed by de facto marriage laws, followed by exponential increase in single parent (mostly female) families. The final result is demoralisation on a large scale. These laws began in the U.K. + USA in the late 1960's & have been blindly borrowed by Australia (notably Labor governments) to our ever increasing detriment.

In summary my submission is that the facts of all previous enquiries be closely read and the conclusion is undoubtedly that fathers & mothers must in these very desperate times have equal custody rights and maintenance costs must be equally divided & shared by both parents. This in fact the basis of the whole principle of marriage laws. I believe we have some very fine politicians (eg John Howard, Daryl Williams, Kevin Andrews and many other who, undoubtedly, are linked up in the battle to resound & save the family. However, the battle has been a bitter one, extending now, over thirty years

We must not give up fighting for the principles of justice for all in the idea of family. We must never quit.

I wish you all the best in this current and gathering mission. However the facts indeed are already there. The answer lies in strategic responses, to repeal and cancel immoral laws & systems, and step by step, to replace them, with laws that respect man, woman the child, the institution of marriage, and ultimately, our national future.

May God bless your efforts,  
yours faithfully,  
Brian Clarke.

Attachments:

- (1) The real rights of the child  
Dr Alan Carlson (AFA Bulletin <sup>MARCH</sup> 2002)
- (2) Modern Marriage - Modern  
Trouble - David Froom (AFA Bulletin <sup>JULY</sup> 2002)
- (3) Dads fight for fairness  
(Sarah Henderson) (The Melb Sun article 24/9/03)