
SUBMISSION

How can I move on

Thank you for considering this submission. I am a Father of two girls aged [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I care for the kids on a 4 on 4 off bases around my shift work [REDACTED]. My ex moved on, re-partnered and has had a baby and building a house with her new partner within 2 years of separation. I'm happy for her as our split was mutual. I currently pay her \$460 a fortnight in child support, down from \$522 the previous year as I no longer am able to work overtime.

One thing that is not taken into consideration in child support is the affect divorce has on the separated parents. In order to create a 50:50 split I had to give up the house, furniture, and 25% of my super as well as take on \$20,000 debt. This was predominantly due to my super conditions being far superior then hers. This will help me in 30 years when I retire, but for now it's not so easy.

I am able to provide a suitable life for my kids when I have them, but it will take many years financially to recover and be able to save for a deposit for a house of my own. I live pay to pay and are unable to see a way forward. Mentally, it affects me I'm paying money that I've earnt and paid taxes on, in child support when I should be using it to save, buy a home or go on holidays for myself and the kids.

I feel that the current system is unfair, predominantly as I do my part in caring for my children 50% of the time and on top of child support, pay my 50% of all other costs eg school fees.

SOLUTIONS

I support the following principles for child support. No child support if care is equally shared. Child support should be based on realistic costs. Illegal activity should not be rewarded.

Family law around super needs to be looked at. Getting divorced in my 30's has seen money that I cant touch for 30yrs affect the way I live my life now. It would be great to be able to access these funds for a deposit on a primary place of residence.