

**Subject:** Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Child Support Program  
**Date:** Tuesday, 10 June 2014 10:20:21 PM

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Committee Secretary,  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal  
Affairs,  
PO Box 6021,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra ACT 2600.  
Phone: (02) 6277 2223.

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is a submission supporting the need to make the Child Support Program Fairer.

I have been a supporter of the organisation called Dads in Distress. In simple terms this organisation was set up to try to prevent men, mainly fathers who have been through the Family Court and are separated from their children and are dealing with the Child Support Agency from suicide.

Former Federal MP Albie Schultz who retired at the last Federal election in his final speech recognised a connection between the Child Support Agency and fathers suiciding. I believe the organisation Beyond Blue has claimed that fathers who have been separated from their children ( by the Family Court ) are five times more likely to suicide then other males.

As a former member of the Wollongong Suicide Prevention Network I believe I can say that the organisation recognised the consequences of relationship breakups as a cause of suicide. We can place the stresses caused by the CSA resulting in suicide under the heading of "consequences of Relationship Breakdown", as recognised by Albie Schultz

Not only does the unfairness, (and the inability to see an end to that unfairness) result in suicide, might I suggest it is a significant cause of domestic violence.

I believe a government report carried out approximately fifteen years ago which I believe was called the Burdaken Report mention that relationship breakdown increased the chances of domestic violence by 600 percent. As a teacher I was once in a lecture by an expert on violence and bullying who claimed "All violence comes from injustice" or words to that effect (the speaker used the example of the Columbine School massacre in USA resulting from bullying.

Unfairness in the Child Support system, male suicide and domestic violence are connected. (Seek statistics from outside Australia as many Australian

statistics are seriously suspected of being fabricated )

Fathers often see child support as a court sentence for the crime of simply being a father. While ever child support is seen as being unfair and without end, male suicide and domestic violence will remain high.

I suggest if a similar number of women found themselves in this position there would be a similar result.

The Child Support Program must be made fairer.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Sincerely,