

Subject: Child Support Program Inquiry
Date: Sunday, 1 June 2014 11:42:05 AM

I would like to make a submission to the above inquiry. I did attempt to upload a submission earlier, but was unable to access the registration email that was sent to this device.

Whilst the only problem that I ever experienced as a payer was a five-year delay in reconciling an income estimate, I would make a general observation of the program:

It is highly undesirable for a government beauracracy to exist with the specific purpose of intruding into the personal lives and finances of individuals, particularly at a time of family breakdown. The assessment of a parents financial responsibilities and the associated issues, should rightly be a function of the courts; not low-level public servants, often with questionable motives.

I appreciate that the courts are over-burdened, but it should not be necessary for individuals to attend a hearing. Surely it would be possible to design a simple, perhaps on-line, process whereby the court would receive, assess and determine child support obligations.

Certainly the Child Support Program should retain an enforcement role, when necessary. However, I would suggest that the scheme in its present form has cost more in Government outlays than was the case prior to its inception some 25 years ago.

With the above in mind, I would offer the following suggestions:

1. The Child Support Registration and Collection Act 1988 should remain, to enforce court-ordered maintenance, and
2. The Child Support Assessment Act be repealed, with that function returned to the courts.

Thank you.

Philip Thomson.

Sent from my iPad