



Snapshot from the Child Support Questionnaire

THE response to a Federal Parliamentary inquiry into a program which deals with the most sensitive of issues, the care of children after family breakdown, has been immediate and wide-ranging.

Committee Chair George Christensen MP said the new inquiry into the Child Support Program, which was launched on April 30, received more than 2,000 responses in the first two weeks.

Mr Christensen said the committee wanted to give people an idea of what responses were being received via the inquiry's anonymous online questionnaires, and a series of snapshots of the themes raised will be published.

"The first of these snapshots, which focuses on the theme of 'negotiation' shows a broad range of experiences of the Child Support Program," Mr Christensen said.

"We want to give people an idea of the stories and experiences that individuals are telling us, and as time goes on, we will publish more summaries with other themes."

Experiences of negotiation in the snapshot include the following:

'We have been lucky we can be amicable and do it with a private treaty'

'There has been no ease in arranging child support, it has taken many phone calls, arguments & tears to arrange anything'

'Money is a battlefield. It's a source of anxiety and tension for both parties, whether due to fear or anger. It has become a prime source of revenge for both parties'

'Initially difficult but since going through the child support it is a bit easier'

The complete snapshot is available here:

http://www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Social_Policy_and_Legal_Affairs/Child_Support_Program/Snapshots

The questionnaire can be completed on this page: <https://www.research.net/s/CSPquestionnaire>

Further information about the inquiry, including the first submissions to be published, and the public hearing schedule, is on the inquiry website: www.apf.gov.au/childsupport.

For media comment – please contact Lynnis Bonanno in the Chair's office on (07) 4944 0662 or 0408 773 207.

For inquiry information – please contact the Secretariat:

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