

Submission no. 162
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Secretary

From: David Harvey
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To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Cc: David Harvey
Subject: Submission from David Harvey, [REDACTED]



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Submission from David Harvey,
PO Box 1938, Strawberry Hills 2012, NSW.

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry
Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Tuesday, 29th July, 2003.



Dear Sir,

I, David Harvey, am a 55-year-old divorced man whose life was turned upside down over the last few years, so much so that I wrote an e-Book about it and published the book on the Internet to help other people who were about to go through the awful experience.

My experience of being broke, without hope for the future (back then), and discovering the Child Support Agency was chasing me and that they had concocted a large debt I had no means to pay off -- ever -- had me contemplating suicide for the first and only time of my life. The present appeared impossible and the future was "impossible" too.

I never told this to anybody, because I have heard such announcements (threats of suicide) are usually a cry for help. I used to have friends who were policemen, and they dealt with many suicides. They all said those who do it just do it.

I am glad now to say I was too cowardly to end my life then, (and yes, I had also considered the further damage it might do to my two children).

A copy of my ebook is attached. It normally sells over the Internet for \$29.95 in (US currency).

My website is at <http://motsamarketing.com/divorce.htm>
This may change soon to <http://divorcehelp.biz>

So check out both if you care to.

I make no net income from this effort, because the cost of bringing people to my website and running it, eats up the money that people pay to read it. (I have made quite a few "sales", but so far I haven't seen one single dollar come in to my bank account. Yet I have spent hundreds in the meantime, paid by credit card, creating the system to display and market the books.)

My ebook is yours for free, if you care to read it, and it is attached to this email. It is about 53 pages long, but you need Adobe Acrobat reader installed on your PC or

Mac. You can download this free, if you need it, from <http://adobe.com> Your I.T. support people can help you here.

What you are proposing to do in this Inquiry is more important than you might realise, because the present system doesn't work. It has been destroying lives. Anything between three to six men who are "payers" to the Child Support Agency commit suicide in this country. (The CSA refuses to release the statistics, but they know them.) That is higher, I believe, than the much-publicised rate of Youth Suicide which everybody hears about.

Thank you for what you are doing, and thank you for allowing me to make this submission. I hope it is acceptable to you. *ll*

Sincerely,

David M Harvey
PO Box 1938
Strawberry Hills 2012
NSW, Australia


PS: A few days ago, a 41-year-old Melbourne man who bought my book emailed me and said he is now a father, and will have to pay child support.

The man explained this came about from what he termed "a brief encounter", and he added that his fatherhood was only announced to him by the woman three months later.

He said, and I quote, 'So in the next breath it also was announced, "I" have chosen to have this baby and you're the father. You have to pay me maintenance.

'Bewildered by this event in my life and fact that I had no say (and now no control) over the issue. I (was) left with the feelings of being cheated and deceived by the whole event.

'The worst part about this is that the system that is in place for the male gender is you are expected just say yes and cop it sweet, because you're a man that's what men are supposed to do.

'I feel that nothing really prepares you for fatherhood, not even a brief encounter with a woman and the end result.

'Although I am not going to negate my pending responsibilities, it also disturbs me that a woman can just choose to have a baby by the choice or by design, then pass of the responsibility of that decision to the man ... without question of the woman's motivations, intentions or agenda.'

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