

Submission No: 166

Date Received: 3-8-03

Secretary:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 3 August 2003 12:29 AM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: Re: equal access

my view on the proposed changes to the family law act are from experience as a parent and a family member from both the female and the male side of this question.

From my experience, if my child had been exposed to her father she quite

possibly would have ended up being a victim of sexual abuse, as had my ex husbands step daughter. The proposed law would have caused me to become a criminal, simply to protect my child. My ex husband was arrested for sexual assault on a child and i left him at that time, if the new law had been in place back then my ex would have been presumed innocent and my daughter would have been given to him 50% of the time. Had my ex husband been given automatic 50% access to my daughter prior to his trial he could have perpetrated for nearly a year before he was finally put in prison. There are no exact answers to the debate of access, i would like to see men get a fairer deal however my priority and the priority the government should have is the welfare of children. Child sexual assault and domestic violence are a fact of life and we must as a society let perpetrators know it is wrong at the same time as we let women and children know that they can seek safety within the law.

I implore you to take another look at this proposed law, you must put safe guards in place if you plan to put the law in place.

yours in faith
[REDACTED]

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