

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 173

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Secretary: 23 JUL 2003

Mrs Kay Hull
Member for Riverina

Re: Child Access

I am writing to you today with concerns about the changes that are being planned for child access. I know this is an emotional issue, so please forgive me if I am a bit one sided in my views. One view I would like to express first is why does the government need to impose its will on innocent children and change there lives, and when can we start living our own lives without the government interfering. I feel that each access case needs to be judged individually, and not a blanket government law enforced on everyone, every case needs an individual approach.

I have three sons, the two oldest from a relationship that ended over 11 years ago and one child from a relationship that ended nearly a year and 1/2 ago. My oldest children are in the fortunate position of having male primary teachers as role models and caring grandparents and other male role models in their lives, so the argument that these children are lacking a male role model is a load of rubbish. Their father left us to the pleasures of alcohol, drugs and womanizing, which isn't a good role model for my children. He has also had the opportunity to visit his children and have them for weekend access, but thankfully has left me to bring them up without his interference. To tell my children that they have to spend time with a perfect stranger (father) is wrong in my opinion, their lives and happiness is important to me and they are both old enough to make up their own minds about where they want to live, they have both said that they don't want to see their father or to have change schools because of access visits forced upon them by an uncaring government.

The youngest boys father moved away when I was 10 weeks pregnant, so he could supposedly be closer to his other four children from two previous marriages, only to move further away and not see them. When the baby was three months of age, his father thought a new relationship would be good and left us, he has only ever seen the baby once in our home environment. So once again my concerns are expanded that the thought of such an uncaring father should get access to a child he has abandoned. He only wants to see the baby if every body does the running around and organizing of the access for him, as it is a two hour drive for me to get the baby down to Beechworth, this distance of travel seems unreasonable to me, especially when a train comes up from Melbourne twice a day, and virtually stops at the front door, but he says that it is too far to travel.

Both these fathers show no concern for their children, birthdays are forgotten, Christmas gifts are never brought and child support is non existent, so until a more reasonable and acceptable means of child access can be arranged, and that is if the child wants that access, I will be happily bringing my children up the best way I know how and that is with every ounce of love I can give them, and I will hopefully not have the government messing around in my childrens lives.

If you would like to speak to my children about this, feel free because it is their lives that you are planning to destroy.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]