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House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

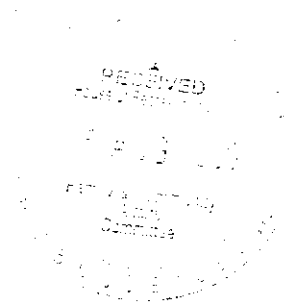
Submission No: 309

Date Received: 5-8-03

Secretary: _____

1st August, 2003

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry
Department House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600



Dear Sir/Madam,

SUBMISSION RE INQUIRY INTO CHILD CUSTODY

The statement 'the best interests of the child are the paramount consideration' is always made by the Family Court, Child Support Agencies and Lawyers., Why are there so many dysfunctional families living in poverty? Not all break-ups appear in the Court system, but of the ones that do, has there been any follow ups on the decisions made?

How many men see suicide the only way out?

How many children have lost their lives by their mothers?

Isn't it a sad affair that parents are forced to see the fair deal" as a contest of who wins and loses

What are the number of children now in their teens and early 20's wanting to see their fathers?

The stolen generation is continuing on because of the fact mothers' have Legal Aid. Fathers usually become so financially stressed that he has to drop out of the contest. We hear a lot of the percentage of couples who face Court, but nothing about the ruling being handed out and the number of Court visits they have to make.

A lot of men finally drop out because of the emotional upheaval his visits and attempts to see his children cause, This is not because the children don't want to see their dads but the moving of the mother and children from one address to the unknown by moving interstate putting 1000s of kilometres between father and child. Doesn't this cause emotional, psychological and sociological damage on the children and isn't this a kind of severe form of abuse?

Why is it that the accused has to prove the statements false and not the accuser prove their allegations correct? This leads to more conflict and so its back to Court.

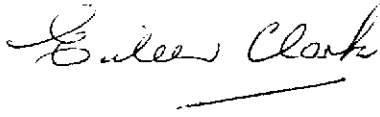
We hear a lot about violent fathers but little of violet mothers. They are certainly out there; controlling violent human beings have no gender!

Why is researching family trees one of the most popular hobbies of the 90's. Children searching for their fathers, have also been noted by myself.

Do we need another stolen generation of emotionally, disturbed people? Haven't we learnt from the past of the cost to the Government of unemployable people?

How many years do we need to see the difference between children raised as little human beings and not pawns in a legal battle? Couples who are reasonable would share the care of their children after

seperation not only with the other parent but also with Grandparents, These children would grow into responsible adults, not adults researching their childhood and wondering what could have been. If the children are the paramount consideration please will someone listen to them before its too late!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen Clark". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a short horizontal line.

Concern Grandmother