

Submission No. 370

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Secretary:

To

**Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry**

As a mother of two sons whose marriages have both broken down in the last three years, I have seen first hand how the 'so called' Family Law Court and Child Support Agencies work.

In the case of my youngest son, he started out with a house, car and a business that he was still paying for and a young daughter whom he adored. His wife left him for another man. He lost his house, car and his child and the business which he would have owned in another 18 months will now take him 5-6yrs before he sees daylight. In the meantime he is flat out feeding and clothing himself and would not have a hope of starting a new life with someone else. After suffering a nervous breakdown and depression as well as being deprived of seeing his daughter he was then slapped with one of those so called D.V.Os that they hand out like confetti these days.

Now in the case of son No 2, same thing wife walked out with another bloke taking his 14month old son with her. After serving 10 yrs in the army he lost everything. He had a home and assets worth over \$550,000. But after she was finished with him in court he walked away with \$30,000 less all the legal costs. This is a woman who has a job worth \$42,000 a year, earns \$200-\$300 a week with a sideline (which the tax department does not know about) she collects maintenance and is living with another man.

These men not only loose everything that they have worked for they then have to spend what little is left going back to court costing more and more just to get what should be their natural right. The right to have fair and equal access and visitation with their children.

Do you call that JUSTICE ?????

Last but far from least, what of the Grandparents? We not only lose a daughter-in-law whom we have grown to love but also our grandchildren. The only time we get to see our grandchildren is when our son has her every second weekend and that is not always possible.

Whoever made this law that a father has only the right to see his children two days a fortnight wants whipping. Why should a mother have more rights than a father? and why should a father have all his rights taken away from him just because a marriage has broken down? Our other grandchild lives 1,000km away and as grandparents we may only get there a couple of times a year and if we don't time it for when our son has him, we are not allowed to see him as his mother will not give permission

There again, why should grandparents have to go to the expense of going to court just to have the right to see their own grandchildren, if you havnt got the money to fight as usual you have no rights. Our so called justice system is wreaking havoc and attacking the very core of our family units and you wonder where all our street kids are coming from. Commensence should tell you the answer to that question.

It is no wonder our young men are choosing not to get married, who in their right mind wants to risk losing 80% of their assets. The suicide rate among our men is rising and they are driven to do things that they would never have thought of doing.

If I, an ordinary citizen can see this so clearly, why can't our polititions see it or is it that they don't want to. Maybe a few votes in the opposite direction will achieve some results.

YOUR SINCERELY

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