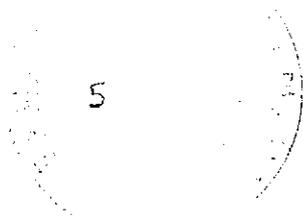


House of Representatives standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
Submission No:	377
Date Received:	5-8-03
Secretary:	

Julie Sangster  
272 Echuca Road  
Mooroopna VIC 3629

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



3<sup>rd</sup> August 2003

**Re: Inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation**

Dear Secretary,

As a single parent I would like to pass on to you my experience and concerns regarding custody arrangements of family separation. I question the merit of introducing a rebuttable presumption of shared residency following separation. One cannot assume that both parents will have or want equal share in the care of their children.

Also of concern is a suggestion that child support should be contingent on the amount of contact by the non-custodial parent. I feel that child support should not be linked to contact as this may preclude a proper consideration of the reasons why contact is not taking place. Also a parents obligation to support his child/children should be irrevocable and of paramount importance. The present system already allows for shared parenting and statistics show that the majority of family matters settle by consent, or require no court orders. I believe the introduction of a rebuttable presumption of shared residency following separation is not realistic, nor in the best interest of the child/children.

Yours sincerely

*Julie Sangster*  
Julie Sangster