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Secretary:

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

Dear Committee Secretary,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Mr Anthony and Mr Williams for being able to take part in this long overdue Inquiry into the Child custody arrangements in the event of family separation.

I would like to state for the record that I'm not highly educated or do I know everything there is to know about good parenting. I try to live an honest life and work as hard as I can. I know right from wrong and the difference between good and evil. Sadly this is not my experiences of the Family law court of Australia. I have seen both wrong and evil decisions handed down.

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In my opinion the presumption that the child spend equal time with each parent is paramount to the best interest of the child and a basic human right to the child and each parent. I think ~~could~~ there could be circumstances where the presumption could be rebutted but I'd like the reasons for rebutt made into law by the Government and not left to the Family Court. The reason I believe the Government should make the rebuttal laws and the definitions very tight is because as the Family Court has shown the best interest of the child is not the courts highest priority. With my court orders I see my children in a Twelve month period for Eighteen percent of that time. Can this be deemed a fair and a just outcome for my children's well being? Hardly I think.

I think there should be major changes to the policing of family court orders. Changes should be made to make it possible to bring action against parents who break orders quickly and cheaply. To give an idea of the courts inaction and speed.

Fourteen Thousand dollars and Two years later the Family court still hasn't heard my case and still have six to twelve months before getting it heard. So as you can read there is not a lot a non-custodial parent can do re safety with their children.

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I believe also if there was a change to equal time spent with each parent it would make the Child Support Agency obsolete. The way the Child Support Agency conducts itself is nothing short of a national disgrace. I've been called a Pair Scum, I've been warned that I'll be harassed by the Child Support Agency for the rest of my life. If the Child Support Agency was a private individual you would be attempting to place a restraining order on that individual for this behavior. In Australia it is my understanding that you are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Not so the Child Support Agency is now taking my tax refund cheques and I've never been taken to court over money supposedly owed to them. Now I have the insidious situation that the Child Support Agency believes I'm earning vast sums of money and I've qualified for Exceptional Circumstances Relief from the Government.

Once again I'd like to thank Mr Anthony and Mr Williams for asking the committee to hold this inquiry and letting me take part. Although my experiences of the Family Court and Child Support Agency have been nothing short of shocking, it's only through inquiries like this that changes are made for the better and the child's best interests are finally put where they should be "Paramount Consideration".

Yours Faithfully

G. J. Roberts

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