

Submission No:

566

Date Received:

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Secretary:

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on family and Community Affairs
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry
Department of the House of Representatives
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Main points to submission-1- Equal time for children with both parents
-2-Time allocated for extended family also
-3-Child Support Formula not working for self employed
people

The aspect I see custody arrangements from is a father who is self employed and sees his children most important in his life. Children relish love & respect from both parents & be they male or female need both a mom & dad to shape their lives to. Its very hard, together with the stress of a marriage breakdown, to have an even appreciation of both parents if one is only allocated access only once every second week end & half the school holidays.

I think it would be far more reasonable to have the children assess both parents for even amounts of time. I also think this would stop a lot of disagreements between parents where children feel the cause of the friction sometimes.

Equal time is ideal where the parents are reasonably close, however each case could be assessed on its different aspects.

Children also require grounding in their specific individual background the best place to obtain this information is from their extended family, grandparents, ect. I feel they also require allocated time with the children so large pieces of their history don't fade needless away, for the lack of time spent.

I do NOT think the formula works at all for self employed people. In my experience it has only been a source of great aggravation & bitter disputes which only serves to have children withdraw from either or both parents, if left unchecked can cause major problems later in life.

I think equal time between parents & cut out money from the equation there would be a lot less, if any conflict & a lot more, well adjusted, children in our communities today.

Should you require a first hand account for your report I would be more than happy to expand on the views outlined here.

Signed- Michael J. Hobbs



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