

Submission No.

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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 ACT 2600

Email: FSA.REPS@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Child Custody

- (a) now look at the big picture. Boy meets girl. Baby created. Shared parenting. Relationship breaks down. Focus is now on the child. Why should the parenting change? You will get a happy, rounded and balanced child if there is still shared parenting. 50/50 custody. If fathers were given half an opportunity many would jump at the chance to give equal input into the child.

Give either parent more custody/contact than the other and that's where the trouble starts. You have a possessive, controlling and manipulative parent as is our case.

- (ii) If there was equal custody and the parents needed help with custody schedule this is where grandparents and extended family come into it. This way both parents can get on with their lives. For us it is paramount for a balanced and happy child and if it is not possible for D and M to work this out between them this is where we would be happy to assist.
- (b) After separation there is usually a property settlement. If a parent wants to move on and improve on his or her career, which can involve living away allowances, overtime, promotion etc. why should this be calculated into the maintenance? Especially when the base wage seems to be adequate. If you had equal custody this would not be a problem. D was working 12 hour days 6 days a week to try and recover legal fees and recover from costs of property settlement. M was reaping the benefits of his hard work but continued to be difficult in regards to contact.

What chance does that parent ever have of being able to move on to another partner and setting up house with a family when he's in the situation of the more he earns, the more he pays.

When the child is of school age there is no reason at all why both parents can't be out working? It is our opinion that M uses the child as an excuse not to work and we also feel that this will be the case for years. Full time would not be expected as we would like the mother to be there for B when she comes home from school, however, it would also be beneficial for the mother to get back to the workforce and retrain. With the situation the way it is with full custody to the mother it is not expected this would change, even when the child is in mid teen years.

Thank you for the opportunity to convey my thoughts.