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Sent: Friday, 8 August 2003 3:28 PM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: FCA Child Custody Arrangement

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 726

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Secretary:

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6-8-2003

Dear Mrs Hull,

I apologise for myself not sticking to the Questions as listed on the website but with no Internet access I was unable to view them, I had a friend send it through his email, but I hope you might find something valuable from this letter.

Points I would like to make in short

- Children are 50% of their father and 50% of their mother so why should the care arrangement be any different. Fathers love their children just as much.
- Females are using the government at taxpayers expense to keep their children away from fathers, when there are fathers willing to take on the physical raising of their children. This would lead to a reduction in single mother pensions, family payments and day care, all of which the government pay for.
- If the children are in 50% care, it leaves time for the mother to get a job and reduce single mother pensions.
- There needs to be a change in the CSA model of fathers paying for their children, mostly the Gross income become the Net income to work out the amount payed to the children.
- Children are missing out on the talents and skills that a father can show the children, as well as another way of dealing with life's situations and problems. They only get to see the way the mother deals with situations.
- Children are also missing out on their fathers when they commit suicide or suffer from depression whilst in their care, and hold anger towards their mothers. This doesn't provide harmonious environment for the child.
- Mothers are putting down the fathers and brain washing the children with the mothers hatred, fathers don't get to prove to the children that they are good people due to lack of time to do so.
- It's not just the father that the children miss out on, in my case its their sisters, stepmother, cousins, grandparents, and great grandparents, there isn't enough time for my daughter to get to know these people well, with the time I get to have her.
- Society claims that fathers don't want their children, It's the laws that allows mothers stopping father from seeing their children. I love and want my daughter more.
- Society will have less expenditure on the future needs of the children that require counselling and community support whilst they are teenagers, and adults. I see this through drug dependency, missing

out on life skills and their possible family breakdowns. If the cycle is slowed now we will be stopping an epidemic that will continue to grow.

A)

I think it is time that the government updates the way they look at children and keep up to date with the way that society is changing.

So what I am proposing is that on break up of parents

1. Each parent gains automatic 50 % care of the children, no discrimination of either parent. Unless the father
 - Has a history of physically harming them - not based on mothers evidence
 - Can't provide adequate housing /environment for the children to live
 - Not a fit role model - eg. mental illness, heroin user
2. Both parents to sit down to counselling (individual and together) and work out what is best for the child, not just what the mother thinks best. This would explain what would be expected from both parents.
3. Both sign the agreement in front of solicitors
4. Agreement then stamped by the court, so legal action can be taken by either parent if there is a dispute.

At the break up of parents, the male who usually leaves the household would move into the local area enabling the children to be picked up by the father or access to his house from their school, therefore having two family environment to learn and develop their lives.

There should be a short period of time for the father to set up an appropriate environment (eg household) for the children
If there is any other arrangement that the parents wish to participate other than 50% care, this would be sort out in counselling

A breaking up deal on property be held at 50% for each parent, with penalty for any parent that doesn't keep up with the care arrangements that they agreed on, say if the deal falls apart after 2 years there is some pro rata compensation of assets.

I see that the social structure is going down hill as single mother raise children that are more likely to do drugs and commit crime. I could go on for pages about the benefits of single fathers over single mothers but if there was 50-50 care the child would get the best of both parents.

Fathers and their children are the real losers, as they lose about 70% of the family worth at the separation of a married couple with 2 children, then the male has to spend \$20,000 or more in court cost if the female wishes to punish the male by not allowing to see the children.

B)

Concerning the CSA model, child payment should be worked out on

1. the NET not the GROSS wage
2. a change in the percentages for each child.

Since there would be more 50% care for children between parents, there would be a reduction in the need for the CSA, and since the CSA runs in the red it can only reduce the debt to the taxpayer and the government

I know of fathers that have given up their jobs because of the current CSA system and will not return to work until it has changed, who is it hurting ?,

1. the taxpayers of this country, Newstart and child support, govt has to pay more to the mother to re-embed her for the shortfall of income.
2. the father himself, through self esteem, depression
3. the children, as the father can't give as much as if he wanted in trips, clothes and support and also to be a good role model for the children.
4. the mother as she will only receive the minimum of CSA money

I can understand why some father don't want to have anything to do with their children, when the father can't get to have any say about the wealth fare of the child, they watch things happen to their children, try to get it changed through the court, the court orders are sometimes changed in favour of the father and when the mother doesn't comply with the orders nothing happens to the mother even when it comes in front the court again, there is no justice. Also women can lie in court and there is no contempt of court. Before, during or after any of these that happen men can or feel that they could do something that breaks the law, or they don't want to see the children anymore due to the pain felt or go as far as suicide.

In my case, my ex-fiancée agreed with myself in 50% shared care at our break up, when she went to view how much she would lose from her single mothers pension she refused the 50% care and told me to take her to court. When she went to work (some of it cash in hand, mine you), she would leave my daughter in day-care, even though I protested that I would like to spend time with my daughter, (please note I am on Workers Compensation, had surgery and finding it hard to find a job on my restricted light duties). For court my Ex received Legal Aid for 2 years to fight myself to want to see my daughter, My Ex refused to talk to me in the counselling session organised by the family court. She also has wasted court time with AVO's so she would have a stronger case in the family court. In my case in court the judge didn't care to find out that my Ex was in contempt of court and in so I lost my case to her lies and untruths and that she suffers from a mental illness. (I am married with 2 children and provide a better environment for my daughter than a single mother family) but I still only ever wanted 50-50 care, until my back was pushed to the wall. Therefore the government pays my Ex

1. Single mothers pension with all benefits like no rego
2. extra family payment
3. daycare so I cant have my daughter, and in some circumstances to work for cash in the hand.
4. legal aid to fight myself to see my daughter
5. court time for unproven AVOs to help her family court appearance

Please note that I have not mentioned the multiple boyfriends my daughter has gone through with my Ex,

their fights, my daughter miss treatment from her mother with bruising because of her violence, DOCS don't help (like hitting your head against a wall) and hitting your head up against a brick wall only hurts more.

This is a letter to notify to you that there are many males who want to be there for their children and love them just as much as their mothers

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