

Submission No: 805

Date Received: 8-8-03

Secretary:

From: Marie Rees [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 8 August 2003 9:43 PM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: CHILD/CHILDREN CUSTODY

I refer to my letter of June 12, '03 and the AGD reply - [REDACTED] received today.

I wish to submit the following to be considered if changes to the existing Family Court laws in relation to fairer or more equitable custody and financial decisions where committed and responsible fathers are concerned who, for many and various reasons have decided that living with the child/children's mother is no longer beneficial and/or positive to all concerned.

THAT -

1. Closer living arrangements be mandatory, especially when one or both parents/s wants to work so that shared custody is more accessible.
2. No parent has an automatic right to move away at whim, thus removing the child/children from their other natural parent and/or grandparents.
3. Financial support be accountable, i.e. in no way being able to be spent on any other child/children, goods, vehicle, housing etc other than the child/children of the contributing parent.
4. Both sets of grandparents to be equally considered for access.
5. Decisions re schooling, extra curricular activities etc be joint responsibilities not only those of the parent (mostly the mother) who has the child/children in a family residence with, sometimes, other children of different parentage.
6. A communication or counselling body be set up who can help to initiate changes and progressively give support to those separated parents who genuinely wish the utmost for their children but who find communication or other barriers counterproductive to the family cause.
7. More stringent testing by Centrelink re de facto partners contributing income to single parent households without that contribution being declared.

(Mrs) Marie Rees
37 The Wool Lane,
ST. GEORGE'S BASIN.
2540.
[REDACTED]