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House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
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Attention Committee Secretary

Dear sir, madam

I feel very strongly about this issue and believe a 50/50 type contact arrangement is a huge step forward for the welfare of the children, the two parents and the extended families of the children.

During the initial stages of a marriage breakdown the uncertainties of that are faced by the parents and the children are very extreme. The prospect of the children not seeing the father on a regular basis is very stress ful for them. If the father could reassure the children that the contact would be 50/50 then allot of the stress involved with the separation would be diminished both on their parents and on the children.

Going to court over material things is stressful and emotive but people tend to get over the loss of these material things as seen in the many cases of (flood, House fire and theft).The parents often prefer to start their new lives with new possession and surrounds to aid in moving on with their lives.

Having the children taken away from their father after being used to seeing their father ever night to ever second weekend (2 nights in 14) is absolutely outrageous. This is one thing that no body can get over, this causes years of distress and dysfunction for the children and parents. It is human nature not to give up on your children and this causes years of discontent and bitterness as valuable time to nurture and raise the children is lost forever.

If the father knew from the start that he would be getting the 50/50 type contact there would be no need to go to court for the fair option has already been implemented.

The mother would also know from the start that the kids can't be used as pawns to inflict pain on the father and intern inflict pain on the children.

The family court system is an absolute disgrace as greedy lawyers main objective and duty is to make money for the firm and not to seek and

impart justice. If lawyers got paid on how often they obtained justice they would be the least paid profession in the country. Family Lawyers don't make money if their clients get on in a harmonious way they need their parties to fight for them to make a dollar. It is this fighting between the parents that directly harms the children. Every body knows this and you all ignore it during debate.

The legal system is a huge financial burden on the parents and the community. After both losing at least half their assets and support base the last thing they need is more financial loss which once again directly affects the children.

This government or the opposition will never have the moral fortitude to change the way the legal system operates.

For this reason these changes being considered are vitally important in allowing the public wishes to be heard and acted upon. For if any lawyer were asked what they think of these changes, they would all disagree with them because it hinders them making a living from others misery.

Mothers also have problems of fathers not doing their fair share of the child raising. When the fathers only get (2 days in 14) they lose the incentive to do a good job because they are disempowered and feel what can I do to make any difference. "I don't get them enough to make a difference. If the contact was more equitable they would naturally be more involved through the schooling system, sporting activities, children social events etc. Up until the separation most fathers were involved with the children. If a father was not involved or didn't want to be involved THEN COURT PROCEEDINGS COULD TAKE PLACE to allow the father not to have so much contact. All the fathers I have spoke to would never go to court to reduce contact.

Mothers also face a problem with fathers not giving them the right amount of child maintenance. 50/50 type contact would discourage the father from trying to hide his wages from his wife. The father would have the children more and therefore spend money on the children that he would normally deny the mother and therefore the children under the current system.

This would also stop the case where the mother gets all the child support and doesn't use it on the children. This is very a common occurrence under the present system and this creates enormous frustration for the paying parent. If more equitable contact was in-place this would not occur and the money could be channelled to the

benefit of the children.

Parent alienation is a huge problem in these situations and the present system only exacerbates this problem. 50/50 type contact would reduce the effect of one sided parenting and allow the children to figure out for them selves which parent was causing the apparent problems. Children are very smart with regard to these issues and need every opportunity to figure the situation out for them selves so the brain washing and manipulation of children can be reduced.

If the contact was a 50/50 type arrangement, the children wouldn't feel so much loss during the separation and divorce. The children can understand half/ half contact. All the phycologists say that the children consider them selves as 50% their father and 50% their mother. This is a indisputable fact that needs to be considered in this debate. For them not to have 50/50 contact directly opposes this belief they have about them selves and heir parents. They clearly know its not fair but don't have the power to change the situation. For that matter, the parent doesn't have the power to change the situation for them either. This is your responsibility to do what is right for the children, the family's and the social fabric of this country. It is up to you to do what is right and not be manipulated and overly influenced by the squeaky wheels of this country.

The Feminist groups, the extreme males groups, the legal profession, the social security groups and all the other groups who have ulterior motives in this argument don't have a place in this issue.

You are the one we are turning to make a change. Everything else has let us, the parents, the children and the family's down.

Put the effort in and get the right results and your efforts will be rewarded for generations to come.

Yours faithfully



Jeff Gurney

cc Margaret May MP
Larry Anthony MP