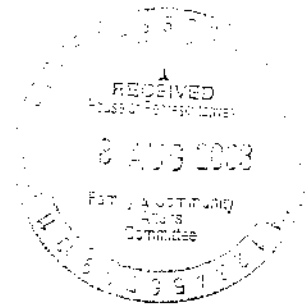


Judith Newbery
42 Mary Street
Donnybrook Qld 4510
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
Submission No:	966
Date Received:	8-08-03
Secretary:	

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



Terms of Reference

(a) given that the best interests of the child are the paramount consideration

- (i) That it is not always the mother who has the definite say on these matters. That the father has equal voice and that his suggestions and opinions are respected and given a fair hearing. That, in most cases the mother is not working and has more flexible time than the father. This should be taken into account also so the father does not have to take time off work just to please the mother's wishes because she has a hair appointment or some other triviality.
- Consideration should be given to travel times for fathers who are in another state or faraway suburb, town, or have to use public transport.
- Costs should also be taken into account in these matters as many fathers have extra costs due to Hotel/Motel stays for weekend visitations when the mother has moved to another state.
- This then should be calculated against the child support payments, as should the numerous court and solicitor costs that are invoked to try and get a reasonable visitation right with the custodial parent.
- This is all very unnecessary and is merely a ploy to bring up some trivial thing that was not to the mother's liking.
- Equal time is a presumption as the mother invariably comes up with weddings, outings, 21st parties or some such commitment and they all usually fall on a contact day or weekend and the time is never made up to the father. School has a big demand on the equal times as holidays usually fall when father is unable to take time off from his job or if he can be with the child, the mother has already made other plans.
- The grandparents also would like some prime time with the child and not necessarily when the parent has them. They need to be able to take the child out to some entertainment and not have the parent involved.

Prime time for both the paternal parent away from and not involved in the family home and the grandparents in the same position has to be assessed very closely and made much fairer to all concerned.

Unless there is a proven fear beyond reasonable doubt of abuse or intimidation from these parties then the mother should not be able to dominate this matter and time allocated to these parties is of the utmost importance to a child's future.

(ii)

The court should understand that grandparents, or some other relation, if aforementioned are deceased of the non-custodial parent are an important part of the child's life and future as well as the custodial grandparents. The bonding with these people is essential as well as the wealth of learning that can be bestowed on the child. They give the unbiased love and understanding that only older people who are not involved in the parents hostilities can. There desire is to see the child happy and at ease and not tied up in adults problems, to have fun and learn and play.

The courts should also form their own opinion on matters and not always take the wording and negatives that are put up by malicious solicitors and manipulating women who only want the money and not the donor to be part of their life.

There is too much emphasis on the mother's suggestions and aggravations and not enough balance in these matters. It takes two to make a child and therefore there are two sides. Women earned equality but they certainly strive for control (ity) in this world.

A harder and thorough look into the court system is desperately needed to enable a fairer and just outcome to these situations that have completely gotten out of hand.

(b)

No! The existing child support formula does not work.

When all of the mixed up and biased people are replaced with genuine people with no hang-ups towards gender and whose interest is in the welfare of the child and honest assumptions of both parents, the system will always fail.

The multitude of mistakes and complacency with files and privacy information is disgusting.

There is no privacy and the non-custodial partners information is at the mother's beck and call any time she wants to know anything about the partner. The information is free for the asking.

Children of same name, but of no relation are linked with files and cause a tremendous amount of anxiety and upset to both parties.

This includes information on bank accounts (helps if your sister works in the bank) phone numbers, personal business or employment information. This can all be accessed and used at will.

Jobs have been lost, attempted suicide, nervous breakdowns and children being burnt and murdered because of one sidedness in courts and this information leaking out to the custodial parent.
The system is all about money and not about the child. [REDACTED]

3 of 3 J.N

(c)

A complete overhaul of the department.

An organized policy that is controlled and policed by hands on experienced employees, taking each person as an equal,

meaning no gender preferences, with a proven genuine desire to advise and help the parents work through their separation problems and to put forth a plan to the child's advantage, not the parent.

To implement a policy that regards the parent able to commence work on a part-time basis when the child starts kindergarten or pre- school.

Then when the child starts school to remain in part time work or commence full time employment.

This should not be negotiable unless an illness or injury prohibits.

That grandparents or elders are contacted and included when arrangements for contacts are negotiated.

Yours Faithfully


Judith Newbery

J.N
[REDACTED]