

Submission No: 1180

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Secretary: [Signature]

TO COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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I AM WRITING IN RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY
INQUIRY INTO CHILD SUPPORT SYSTEM, + AFFECTS
ON NON CUSTODIAL PARENT AND MY CHILDREN
I FIND THE SYSTEM EXTREMELY UNFAIR
AND SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE URGENTLY.

AS I DO NOT HAVE CUSTODY, SOLE OR SHARED
BECAUSE THE LEGAL SYSTEM IS SO EXPENSIVE
AND MY EX-DEFACTO RECEIVES LEGAL AID, AND
I HAVE TO PAY, LEGAL BATTLES BECOME IMPOSSIBLE.
SO, I RELIED ON MUTUAL AGREEMENTS, IT TOO
BECAME IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE THE CHILD SUPPORT
I WAS PAYING MADE IT, SO I COULD NOT AFFORD
TO HAVE THEM. SOME REBATE OR REDUCTION IS
REQUIRED FOR FATHERS OR MOTHERS, ~~AND~~ SO THEY
ARE ENCOURAGED TO SHARE CUSTODY OF THE CHILDREN.
I CURRENTLY PAY \$181.99 PER WEEK.
I RECEIVE \$675.00 GROSS, = \$529.00 NET.
AFTER CHILD SUPPORT + GARNISHED \$25.00 PER
WEEK FOR ARREARS I TAKE HOME \$328.00
PER WEEK, OF WHICH I PAY \$160.00 PER WEEK
RENT, THEN FOOD + EXPENSES I AM LEFT WITH
A MEAGER AMOUNT, TO LIVE ON. SO THAT
DETERRES ANY POSSIBILITY OF STARTING ANOTHER
RELATIONSHIP WITH ANY PARTNER OR HAVING
P.T.O.

MY CHILDREN ON ACCESS VISITS. CURRENTLY MY EX-SPOUSE'S DE-FACTO RECEIVES A PARENTING ALLOWANCE BECAUSE MY EX-SPOUSE HAS ARTHRITIS. THE DE-FACTO GETS PAID AN ALLOWANCE FOR LOOKING AFTER MY CHILDREN. THATS WHERE THE SYSTEM IS WRONG. THE LAW PUNISHES ME FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO AFFORD THE LEGAL SYSTEM.

THE CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY CONSTANTLY REMINDS ME THE THRESHOLD AMOUNT IS \$257.80 PROTECTED EARNINGS AND I GET JUST ABOVE THAT. THAT AMOUNT IS A JOKE, I CHALLENGE ANYONE IN AUSTRALIA TO LIVE ON \$257.80 PER WEEK, FOR RENT, FOOD + EXPENSES. THIS AMOUNT MUST BE REVIEWED. THIS PUTS NON-CUSTODIALS UNDER EXTREME DURESS. THEREFORE RESORT TO EXTREME MEASURES. AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP.

I HAVE FOUND NO SUPPORT WHATSOEVER FROM THE CHILD-SUPPORT AGENCY.

I REALIZE ALOT OF NON-CUSTODIALS IGNORE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES BUT THE RESPONSIBLE PARENTS ARE PAYING THE PRICE.

~~WE~~ ^{WE} HAVE BEEN SEPERATED FOR 9 YEARS, AND I HAVE WORKED FOR ALL OF THEM. BUT THE SYSTEM AS IT STANDS, GIVES ME NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO WORK, AND THE CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY GIVES ME NO SUPPORT OR COMPASSION IN MY PLIGHT.

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SO THE GOVERNMENTS INTERVENTION IS IMPERATIVE, OTHERWISE MORE CHILDREN + PARENTS WILL SUFFER.

THE 34% OF MY WAGE I PAY IS TOO SEVERE, AND FOR OTHER PARENTS IS TOO MUCH WHEN THEY WOULD RATHER HAVE THEIR CHILDREN. INCENTIVE + COMMON SENSE MUST PREVAIL.

THE DOLE WOULD BE AN EASY OPTION FOR MOST NON-CUSTODIALS, BUT IT'S NOT THE ANSWER. THAT'S WHY I CONTINUE TO WORK, APPEARS IN MAINTENANCE NEED TO BE ADDRESSED. I RECEIVED A LETTER RECENTLY FROM THE CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY TELLING ME THE \$25.00 PER WEEK GARNISHED FROM MY PAY WOULD TAKE 437 WEEKS TO PAY THE DEBT, WHAT A LAUGH, WHAT A SLAP IN THE FACE, FOR HARD WORKING AUSTRALIANS.

GIVE INCENTIVES NOT PUNISHMENT, I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT I OWE AND C.S.A. DOESN'T KNOW EITHER BECAUSE FROM WEEK TO WEEK THE AMOUNT CHANGES. ONE LETTER ONE WEEK CONTRADICTS THE NEXT ONE. SO IF THE C.S.A. IS IN THIS SORT OF UNCERTAINTY WHAT FAITH DO NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS HAVE IN THE SYSTEM.

P.S I KNOW THE DEADLINE FOR MY LETTER EXPIRED ON THE 8TH AUGUST 2003, BUT I HAD TO WRITE AND EXPRESS MY VIEWS.

YOURS SINCERELY