	·····	House of Representatives Standing Committee
From:		Submission No: 1183
Sent:	Monday, 4 August 2003 4:58 PM	
То:	Committee, FCA (REPS)	Date Received: 4-8-03
Subject: Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry		Secretary:

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 Dear Sir / Madam

We wish to express our very strong support for the proposals to increase joint residency arrangements for children in separated families.

In our experience, as grandparents, conflict is heightened between parents in the current adversarial family law system. There seems no incentive in the current system for cooperation between parents and the system appears to punish the non custodial parent who in most cases is the father.

Our son has been excluded from any major decisions in our grandson's life such as schooling and medical treatment. Teachers and doctors are reluctant to provide reports on his son's progress seemingly because of possible legal action by the mother.

Endeavours to correct these anomalies has caused our son considerable time, stress, anxiety and frustration.

We look forward to the development of a family law system in the near future that recognises the importance of fathers in their childrens' lives.

3 August 2003.