|                                       |                                    | House of Representatives Standing Committee<br>on Family and Communey Affairs |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| From:                                 | the large two we are present to an | Submission No 1305                                                            |
| Sent:                                 | Saturday, 30 August 2003 9:15 AM   | Date Received 30 - 8 - 03                                                     |
| To: Elson, Kay (MP)<br>Subject: fraud | Secretary                          |                                                                               |
|                                       |                                    |                                                                               |

We all want the best for children and families. We all agree – clearly, the more quality time parents spend with children the better. A common complaint from a parent is that the other parent will not afford enough time with the child or children. Accordingly, it would be ludicrous and indeed abuse to restrict a child to spending time with any one parent. As responsible parents we set a good example. Tragically, in some cases both parents abandon children. A retired Judge from the district court was recorded as saying "When I sentence a parent to jail I often look with sadness at the little children at the back of the court room, who have done no wrong and who do not deserve to be separated from any parent for any length of time."

People who administer neglect on children and force them to be separated from parents often do not know of the damage because perhaps - 1. Their parents spent little time with them 2. They spend little time with their own children. Moreover, some recognize the damage and feel emotionally hurt and guilty that they spend little time with their children.

In a big system such as *Workers Compensation*, where individuals prolong cases for profit, individuals may not be aware of the damage they may do. Many public servants and private practitioners do a small job and a small amount of damage. However, when lots of people do a small amount of damage the end result is devastating for individual children.

A clear example: Joe Wright has admitted fraud, Joe Wright will repay every cent when the media follow the whole story.

Another clear case of hypocrisy: There is public outcry - re Pauline Hanson – if every politician, legal, medical, and human services professional was to be put behind bars for fraud we would spend years building a jail big enough.

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