

Submission No.

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Secretary:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 September 2003 1:55 PM
To: Forbes, Bev (REPS)
Subject: FW: Child Residency Arrangements Inquiry

-----Original Message-----

From: Steven.Garland [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 September 2003 1:52 PM
To: Hull, Kay (MP)
Subject: Child Residency Arrangements Inquiry

Hi Kay

I am a recently separated father & I have noted in today's Herald Sun in Melbourne that you are conducting an inquiry into Residency arrangements for children. I understand that the inquiry is not yet completed, but I am interested to know if the inquiry is looking into backdating the findings so that a father like myself may have a chance of getting joint residency if that is one of the outcomes of the inquiry.

I will most likely end up getting divorced about January, approximately the same time as the inquiries findings come out & with the system as it is at present I will only end up with every second fortnight & some school holiday's access. It worries me to think that a father who gets divorced maybe one or two months after me when the inquiries outcomes possibly come into effect could end up with instant half access.

I am not asking for answers to the outcomes of the inquiry, I would just like to know whether backdating for divorces that are going to happen since the inquiry was started are being considered to be included in the inquiries findings.

It may interest you to know that if I was guaranteed joint access automatically, I am 100% certain that my wife & I would not end up proceeding with our divorce. I am certain that we would then continue to try to work out our differences. The fact that my wife knows she is guaranteed main access, she is not overly worried about trying to save our marriage as with the present system she really ends up with no heartache or major loss like the father does.

I am more than willing to talk to you about any of this if you need a recently separated fathers opinion & I am sure my separated wife would be also if you wanted her opinion.

Kind Regards

Steven Garland
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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