

Forbes, Bev (REPS)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 September 2003 9:57 AM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: enquiry into child custody arrangements

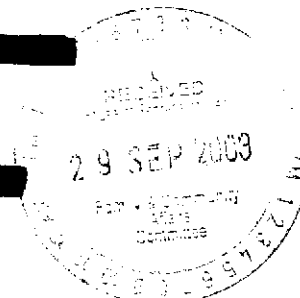
House of Representatives Standing Committee
 on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No. **1474**

Date Received: **29-9-03**

Secretary:

2003

27th September, [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

To the Minister who is concerned for the best interests of the children,

My wife has left me. On Wednesday 24th September she disappeared from our home in [REDACTED] and has taken our two children interstate with her. My son is age 6 and my daughter aged 2 ½. Around this time we had had no major arguments and there is no history of violence throughout this 7 year marriage. She refuses to receive any attempt of mine to contact her or her family and has left me devastated. I can't talk to either of my children who I hope believe they are merely on holiday. On the 6th of October 2003 she will be placing my son in School there in [REDACTED] I have received a Form 3 from her and our case will be heard in a [REDACTED] Court in November by which time, I'm sure, she is hoping the children will be well settled.

HOW IS IT THAT MY CHILDREN CAN BE TAKEN AWAY FROM ME TO ANOTHER STATE AND I HAVE TO FIGHT WITH LAWYERS JUST FOR THE PRIVILEGE TO SEE MY CHILDREN.....A FEW TIMES IN A YEAR OR ONCE A FORTNIGHT !!!!!

I AM ASKED TO GIVE 2 WEEKS NOTICE IF I WANT A DAY WITH MY CHILDREN !

WHERE ARE MY RIGHTS AS A FATHER?

WHERE ARE MY CHILDREN'S RIGHTS TO A FATHER?

JOINT CUSTODY MUST BE AUTOMATIC ON SEPERATION AND THE PARENTS RESIDE IN THAT SAME CITY OF SEPARATION – MAKE IT LAW !

I have been encouraged to look on the Family Court website and it all seems very fair and just, but I think reality seems to tell another tale. How many stories of broken hearted Fathers must we hear, how many news items of suicides must we watch on TV. The Federal Government has made mention of the need for the Fathers close involvement in their son's life, medical experts are telling us that girls are becoming sexually prepared earlier with the early onset of puberty in the Father's absence. I have heard that while the Mother has a nurturing role the Father provides both son and daughter with their identity – the sense and confidence of who they are. How do I provide this with the limited access that she calls "reasonable" contact. Is this what a Brisbane Court of Law giving my wife full custody of our children will call in the best interests of the

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childrenFathers have a lot more to do with their children these days. I for one have been there for my children since their births. I cut the umbilical cord, I've cuddled them and nursed them to sleep. I've held them close to my chest on outings, I've taken sole care of them 3 nights a week, I've been looking after them on weekends while my wife worked for the past 2 years, I love my children dearly and can't bear the thought of such little time with them as they are growing up.

Why can she take them away from me....can you please explain the justice in this ?

Yours in hope and desperation,

[REDACTED]

29/09/2003