

Forbes, Bev (REPS)

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Monday, 15 September 2003 3:59 PM
Family and Community Services Standing Committee
Committee, FCA (REPS) ^{supp.}
comments re child support agency
Submission No: 1475

Dear Secretary,

I am writing in response to a question raised by a committee member at this mornings hearing with Family and Community Services, incorporating the Child Support Agency.

The question revolved around whether the income of a new spouse (a non biological parent) ought to be taken in to account when calculating child support. The theory put forward was that the payee or payer could apply for a change of assessment based on what a new spouse/partner brought to the partnership.

We are in this situation. My husband pays child support. I will be returning to full time work next January 2004. I am returning to full time work in order to afford what we cannot currently, for example, a deposit for a house or tertiary education for our children.

I would feel very disadvantaged if my income were put on the table to determine how much child support is paid to my husbands ex-wife. I would be very disappointed if the Committee assumed that all separated people repartner. Many do not because they can achieve a very reasonable standard of living by deliberately staying single and unemployed.

My husbands ex-wife does not work and has not, at all, since 1992, and she has not repartnered. What she needs is a means to get a job, not a means to further finance her 'lady of leisure' lifestyle. I do not want my husband to have to pay more child support because I will bring more income to the household.

Conversely, if I were the person who paid child support, I would think it very unjust if my husbands income was required to be part of the child support equation.

I was pleased that the Committee has 'connected the dots' where the inequities within the Child Support Agency exist.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that [redacted] and/or myself would be very willing to appear before the Committee to answer any questions. We feel we would be able to give the Committee an 'as it happens' perspective on all issues raised this morning (legal fees, costs of contact, paying child support whilst exercising contact etc).

Yours Sincerely,

[redacted]

E-mail just got a whole lot better. New ninemsn Premium. Click here
<http://ninemsn.com.au/premium/landing.asp>