

**Forbes, Bev (REPS)**

House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Family and Community Affairs

**1507**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 22 October 2003 11:16 AM  
**To:** Committee, FCA (REPS)  
**Subject:** Support for Shared Custody

Submission No: [REDACTED]  
Date Received: **22-10-03**  
Secretary: [REDACTED]

Hi, I would like to register my support for shared custody. I am currently a very active father with a 10 year old son. My time with him has been limited and restricted due to my former partner having more residence of him and ensuring that I have no extra time with him. To ensure that I can spend time with him, I have taken on the role of soccer coach, do canteen duty and spend much time at the school so that he has the benefit of my time. It seems to me that the family court is biased and currently gives the woman the automatic assumption of custody. Recently I have told my wife that my son needs more time with his father and that I would be going back to the Family Court, in response she has decided she wants to move to a remote location some huge distance away from me. I now fear that the Family Court will award this and my son will suffer further as my role of a father is not recognised. I support the notion of joint custody, it ensures fairness for children who need both parents, I can see the pain in my son when I do not get to see him very often and how clingy he is with me when we first join up again. I don't believe my son has the benefit of me fathering from a distance and unless the courts ensure that the child's rights to both parents are maintained by joint custody the child will continue to suffer when parents split up and become bitter and unreasonable about the child's needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards

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