

Submission No. 75

Date Received: 9-7-03

Secretary

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 9 July 2003 8:45 PM  
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)  
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into Child Custody

As a father of 2 young children I pay 27% of my income in child support.

Now that the children no longer live with me the high income medicare levy now kicks in at \$50,000.

Rather than \$101,500 (source ATO medicare levy) despite the fact that I am continuing to provide for my children.

At \$50,001  
42 cents in the dollar  
2.5 cents in medicare levy  
27 cents in child support  
9 cents in superannuation

This leaves 19.5 cents in the dollar with the wage and salary earner.

At the high income level of \$60,001 where  
47 cents in every dollar goes in income tax.  
2.5 cents in the medicare levy  
27 cents in child support (hidden alimony)  
9 cents for superannuation

This leaves a grand total of 14.5 cents in the dollar for the supporting father. The total you will notice does not include GST or the other hidden taxes.

It is not until the supporting fathers income reaches what the CSA classifies as 2.5 times the average weekly earnings does the amount of child support (hidden alimony) reach a set amount. This is indexed for inflation. For 2003 this is \$119 470.

But I doubt that the average weekly earnings rise by the indexed inflation rate.

My pay rises are definitely not linked to the inflation rate. 68% of Australian Salary and wage earners earn less than the average weekly earnings.

Every fortnight I have a round trip of about 4 hours depending on the traffic to pick my children up so that they can stay with me and to take them back to their mothers making a total of 8 hours I spend travelling. She refuses to meet me half way on this.

I also ring my children 3 times a week to talk to them.

Research shows that the contact parents cost not including travelling cost but costs related to providing accommodation for the children is 45% of the costs related to children living in an intact household.

I also have my children for half of the school holidays which in this time I do not work. I am fortunate in this regard that I can do this as it allows me to spend uninterrupted time with my children.

The mother can earn up to \$36 213 before the amount of child support being paid is reduced.

About a decade ago some of the newspapers run a comparison between a wage earner relieving the average wage supporting a wife and 3 children and a single mother and three children on welfare. The article showed



that the single mother on welfare was better off than the salary earner.

The ideology behind the child support is that the children should not be worse off after divorce or separation.

Leonre Wietzman a feminist whose research showed that the husbands standard of living improved whilst the ex wives standard of living fell with the now infamous 42/75 theory. Her research was accepted as fact. The media grab her results and ran with them. It is only in recent times that her research has been shown to be faulty. (There are some articles on the internet about this)

The contradiction with child support payments is this, for the children not to experience a fall in the standard of living then the childrens mother also must not experience a fall in the standard of living. Hence built into the child support formula is what is known as hidden alimony.

I do not object to supporting my children, but I do object to supporting my ex-wife's standard of living.

On the form for an application in change of assessment for the CSA it asks me what have I done to try and reduce my living expenses. 1. I do not go out. 2. If something breaksdown like the video recorder I cannot afford to get it fixed. 3. I dont drink. 4. I definitely could save money if I chose to never see my kids again. 5. I dont gamble 6. I very rarely drive the car except to go and pick the kids up. 7. I try to do most of the maintaine on the car myself.

The above is just a short list.

I feel that all I am good for is as a pay packet and sperm donor.

Women can divorce their husbands, but men can never divorce their wives because the role of being the provider (pay packet) continues after divorce.

[REDACTED]