

[REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to address concerns with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) regarding the educational schemes that currently influence custody dynamics and financial distribution among separated parents. I enlisted in the Defence Force in 2010

[REDACTED]

My situation involves my three children, who I co-parent with my ex-partner, [REDACTED]. We have twins aged [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED] son. Following our separation shortly after my discharge, I have encountered significant challenges due to an ongoing unhealthy relationship characterised by non-physical domestic violence, including financial and coercive control. These dynamics have not only affected my relationship with my children but their mental well-being as well.

A primary concern with the DVA educational benefits is that the current structure seems to financially incentivise one parent over the other, based on custody percentages. This policy inadvertently encourages disputes over custody to maximize financial gains rather than focusing on the best interests of the children. I have participated in four mediations (20k) over the past decade, all inconclusive, largely due to disagreements fueled by financial arrangements linked to family tax benefits and educational assistance.

Specifically, the educational assistance scheme mistakenly denied my son the tutoring he needed because I was not recognized as the primary caregiver, holding [REDACTED] % custody. Furthermore, despite a parenting plan agreement stipulating that [REDACTED] would cover the education assistance for school fees (*attached*), she has refused to fulfill this obligation once the children were enrolled. This not only undermines the financial support intended for our children's education but also highlights the potential for manipulation within the system, defeating the entire purpose of the scheme.

I am reaching out to discuss these issues in detail and explore possible adjustments to the DVA's policies that better support the children of veterans, regardless of their parents' custody situation. It is crucial that the DVA's support systems do not exacerbate family conflicts but rather contribute to their resolution.

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further via phone. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to schedule a call.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

below cut out from parenting plan. please note I have all evidence to back up everything said in this letter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]