

Title	Child Support and Welfare Reforms in Australia: What do they mean for children of separated parents?		
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Abstract	<p>Australia is seen to be a world leader in the development and implementation of its child support scheme. Notwithstanding this, and as in other countries, the Agency and the formula it administers have been under constant attack, predominantly from fathers' rights groups, leading to numerous reviews of the scheme. The most comprehensive review of the formula to date was recently concluded and it is likely that the significant changes recommended will be implemented. In many cases, the impact of the changes will be to reduce child support payments. Australia has been slower in the area of welfare reform, but has also recently introduced 'welfare to work' reforms. These will dramatically affect the entitlements of single parents, particularly those whose children are all over 6. Thus, the government is proposing that, over the period of just a few years, there be significant changes to the payment of child support and the receipt of benefits by sole parents. Obviously, there is a considerable interaction between these two areas, with most recipients of child support also receiving parenting benefits. This paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explores the extent to which empirical data has informed these reforms • Analyses how the combination of these reforms will impact financially on sole parent households, and therefore the financial security of the children involved, and • Considers how the 'work' of parenting children was valued in the development of these reforms and discusses the implications this has for determining the appropriate balance between state versus parent support for children. 		