



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

**House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services**

MEDIA RELEASE

2 February 2006

The work / family / childcare debate continues

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family & Human Services will resume its inquiry into balancing work and family with a public hearing in Sydney on 3 February 2006.

Committee Chairman Bronwyn Bishop said that the Sydney public hearing would discuss the choices Australians make in raising families, and how they are affected by Government policy and workplace culture.

The Committee will hear from tax and welfare expert Professor Peter Saunders of the Centre for Independent Studies, who argues for reform of the tax system to create better incentives for parents to return to the workforce.

'Australia has one of the lowest participation rates for mothers in paid work in the OECD,' said Mrs Bishop.

'Life is tough for working parents, and young couples are choosing to delay starting a family or miss out altogether.'

'Clearly, we can do better as a society in supporting working parents and giving them genuine choice and flexibility when it comes to child care, meaningful work, and managing family finances.'

The Committee will also hear from *JOB futures*, Australia's only national network of community based employment service providers. In its submission, *JOB futures* noted the importance of child care, among other factors, in helping parents to re-enter the workforce.

Venue: Room 814/815, NSW Parliament, Macquarie St, Sydney

Time: 9.30am – 1.00pm

Participants: Centre for Independent Studies (9.30-10.30am)
Restaurant and Catering Australia (10.30-11.15am)
Sydney IVF (11.30am-12.15pm)
JOB futures (12.15-1.00pm)

For media interview: please contact Damien Jones on **0409 147 247** at the electorate office of the Committee chairman the Hon Mrs Bronwyn Bishop MP.

For further information: contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4566, mobile 0421 051 837 email fhs.reps@aph.gov.au or visit <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/workandfamily/>