



Working for Australia's Future

The chair of the House Employment Committee, Phil Barresi MP, wishes to correct some media coverage of the Committee report *Working For Australia's Future* that was released on Monday 14 March 2005.

The report, *Working for Australia's future: Increasing participation in the workforce*, made 23 recommendations, one of which focused on reviewing tax and income support arrangements. The report focuses on providing a range of incentives to jobseekers and employers, as well as encouraging more holistic approaches to training and assistance programs.

Some media reporting has suggested that the Committee recommended increasing the tax free threshold, this is **not** so. The report recommends:

Recommendation 4 - Paragraph 4.79

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government review the tax free threshold, taper rates, effective marginal tax rates and income test stacking to maximise incentives to move from income support payments to increased participation in paid work.

Other comments in the report are attributed to witnesses and submissions to the inquiry.

Mr Barresi requests that for further reporting on the inquiry, any findings should be appropriately referenced to comments by witnesses and submissions, or to the Committee if they are the report recommendations.

Background

The inquiry into increasing paid employment was commenced in the last Parliament. During that time, the Employment Committee amassed a large body of evidence; over 100 submissions were received and more than 20 public hearings were conducted across Australia.

Twenty out of the 23 recommendations were agreed unanimously. There was dissent from non-government members on three of the recommendations that concerned the reform of industrial awards and eligibility criteria for the disability support pension.

Copies of the report can be obtained by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or on the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ewrwp or emailing ewrwp.reps@aph.gov.au

For media comment

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