



From: Jillian Marsh [REDACTED]

## Submission by Jillian Marsh

Please accept this submission in accordance with the terms of reference:

**Financial, career and social disincentives to starting families** - Living in a small country town poses a major disincentive to starting a family because of the lack of full-time and part-time childcare available for families. As a result many families are forced to either move elsewhere or struggle due to economic constraints. The other alternative is to not start a family.

Rural townships also experience a constant decline in government employment due to privatisation and restructuring within departments such as Water, Electricity, National Parks. As a result there is less likelihood of employees willing and able to provide parental leave (eg. when children are ill) and maternity leave (pre-natal and post-natal).

I strongly encourage that the persons involved in this inquiry make specific recommendations for government subsidies that support childcare and paid leave in rural and remote townships.

**Making it easier for parents who so wish to return to the paid workforce** - Often there is work available, a pool of skilled persons able to do the work, but no family support. Therefore, people with excellent skills are often unable to make use of their talents because they have no childcare facilities. We need to have accredited carers readily available to provide us with childcare for pre-school age children. Not only does this make the transition easier for children when they do start school, it also means that parents (predominantly affecting the mother) can return to the workforce with 12 months of giving birth.

One of the key recommendations coming out of this inquiry must have its focus on the family needs of rural and remote regions of South Australia. We deserve some equity on this.

**Impact of taxation and other matters on families in the choices they make in balancing work and family life -**

No comment

Jillian Marsh

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