



From: Thomasina Ralston [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 8 April 2005 9:29 AM
To: Committee, FHS (REPS)
Subject: Balancing work and family

STANDING COMMITTEE
08 APR 2005
on Family and Human Services

To whom it may concern,

I believe that the major disincentive for women to return to the workforce is the prohibitive cost of childcare.

Most child care centres cost between \$75 and \$100 per child - one just opened in North Sydney charging \$110/day for under 2 year old.

This means that a woman has to earn more than ~\$50,000 just to cover the cost of childcare. This is ridiculous - there is very little incentive from the government in terms of tax deductions or assistance.

All women who have to cover the cost of childcare should be able to write the cost of child care off as a tax deduction.

This would assist all women in all roles and levels of work to return to the workforce - hence reducing workforce shortages.

Another suggestion would be to work with local councils to open more community based child care centres which are not for profit and cost parents a more realistic amount.

Kind regards
Thomasina Ralston

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