



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

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

MEDIA RELEASE

28 February 2006

Government assistance for families: Is it working?

The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs will appear before a House of Representatives committee tomorrow to discuss government payments to Australian families.

The federal department will give evidence to the Standing Committee on Family & Human Services' inquiry into balancing work and family.

The Department has policy oversight of a family benefits system worth more than \$20 billion a year, including the Family Tax Benefit, Child Care Benefit and Maternity Payment.

It has also funded research into fertility in Australia.

Committee Chairman Bronwyn Bishop said that, "This Government has made a significant financial commitment to supporting Australian families".

"We need to make sure that the system is operating effectively, providing the right incentives for workforce participation, and supporting people in their decision to have families," Mrs Bishop said.

"Submissions to the inquiry state that parents are feeling the pressure of child care costs, availability and flexibility, and need continued assistance to enable them to work."

Venue: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra

Time: 10.15am-11.30am

Participants: Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

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/>