



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

26 May 2006

The cost to relationships of balancing work & family

The House Families Committee will hold a public hearing for its inquiry into balancing work and family in Canberra on Monday 29 May.

The Committee will hear from Relationships Australia and Childcare Associations Australia. Relationships Australia, which receives half of its funding from the federal government, provides family support services to more than 90,000 people a year from about 100 locations across Australia. Childcare Associations Australia represents private and community long day care centres and private out of school care. These witnesses will provide evidence on the difficulties parents encounter in balancing work and family life.

Relationships Australia believes there is growing concern in the community about family, relationship and parenting matters. Their position in the community gives them a unique insight into how individual, family and particularly children's needs are affected by work commitments.

Their clients include step/blended and single parent families in which children often feel the substantial impact of their parents' work commitments. Their clients seek services to help strengthen and build relationships or resolve relationship breakdown issues.

Committee Chairman Bronwyn Bishop said that the public hearing would discuss the impact of work commitments on relationship breakdown.

"In order to get by, many families need two incomes. If the parents are busy with their jobs and their children, they probably don't have any time for each other. People simply have too much on their plate," Mrs Bishop said.

The hearing is open to all members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Venue: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra – 10:30am to 12:00pm

Participants: Relationships Australia (10:30am – 11:15am)
Childcare Associations Australia (11:15am – 12:00pm)

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 on the public hearing: contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4566 or mobile 0421 053 822 or email fhs.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs