



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 7 April 2006

Business Council continues the work/family debate

The Business Council of Australia will give evidence to the House of Representatives Families Committee on Monday (10 April 2006) for its inquiry into balancing work and family.

The Council is an association of chief executives of leading Australian corporations with a combined national work force of almost one million people. It is a co-sponsor of the National Work Family Awards. In its work/family survey, 93 per cent of the Council's membership that participated offered flexible working hours.

Dr Leslie Cannold, a Research Fellow at the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics at the University of Melbourne, will also appear. Her book, *What, No Baby? – Why women are losing the freedom to mother, and how they can get it back*, was published last year. One reviewer called it, "a refreshing take on the contemporary Australian panic about falling fertility rates".

Committee Chairman Bronwyn Bishop said requesting businesses to "work around people's family commitments can either impose costs or help them attract quality staff".

"We need to find out when work/family flexibility helps both businesses and their employees," Mrs Bishop said. "We expect women to put their heart and soul into raising children, but they are now also an essential part of the economy. This has to affect their opportunities and decisions about having children."

Venue: Committee Room K
Parliament House
Spring Street, Melbourne

Program:	9.30am-10.30am	Business Council of Australia
	10.30am-11.15am	Dr Leslie Cannold
	11.30am-12.15pm	Community Child Care
	12.15pm-1.00pm	Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research
	1.45pm-2.30pm	Victorian Women's Trust
	2.30pm-3.15pm	Australian Institute of Family Studies
	3.30pm-4.15pm	Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

For media interview: please contact Damien Jones on **0409 147 247** at the electorate office of the Committee chairman Hon Mrs Bronwyn Bishop MP.

For further information: contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4566, mobile 0421 053 822 email fhs.reps@aph.gov.au or visit <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/workandfamily/>