



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 18 August 2006

Balancing work and family in Defence

Senior representatives from Defence will give evidence to the House of Representatives Families Committee in Darwin on Monday (21 August 2006) for its inquiry into balancing work and family.

The Defence representatives will include Commander of the 1st Brigade, Brigadier Craig Orme and the Director-General of the Defence Community Organisation, Ms Janet Stodulka.

The Defence Community Organisation runs a number of support programs for defence staff and their families, including access to child care, counselling and emergency support.

The hearing will also canvass the views of the families of defence personnel.

Committee Chairman Bronwyn Bishop said, "During these times of heightened security concerns, we are relying on our defence personnel more than ever. A stable home life gives our service men and women a secure foundation to keep up their important work in defending Australia."

The Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce and Industry will also give evidence. One of the themes of the inquiry is whether being family-friendly helps firms attract quality staff or imposes costs because management needs to spend more effort in ensuring clients' needs are met.

Venue: Chamber Room
Darwin City Council
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin

Program: 9.30am-10.30am NT Chamber of Commerce and Industry
10.30am-11.30am Defence Community Organisation
11.30am-12.15pm Defence Partners Support Group

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/>