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 To: Committee, FHS (REPS)

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Subject: One way to balance work & family

There is no doubt that we have missed the whole point of human existence/survival - having children and bringing them up in the best way each set of parents know how. This requires both Mother and Father to be in constant & prolonged contact with their children so that values, skills and love can be passed down.

Due to living and social status pressures, the breadwinner (mostly men), is forced to work long hours for financial stability (necessary) to provide for the family and the financial ability (unnecessary) to buy the family 'things'. This usually results in a one-parent family as the other breadwinner parent is effectively not part of the family! The situation is worst when both parents work full time, in which case the children are now 'orphans'. The work that parents do cannot be subcontracted out.

So what do we do? Firstly, we must educate parents that most of what children need cannot be purchased with money - it is the parents' time and involvement with each child. . If parents start spending more time with their children, hopefully they will feel less guilty about being the absent parent, buy less 'things' to make up for this guilt and have more money left over and not have to work the overtime. Government can help with more parks, museums, concerts, and other such activities/facilities.

The second problem (financial stability) requires more work. Since our population is ageing and young taxpayers are decreasing, it is actually a funding issue for the retirees and more importantly, the soon-to-be-retirees. Therefore, these people (seniors) should pay/subsidise the younger citizens to have children for them. Children that Seniors should have had but were too busy due to whatever. Children which if they have had, would now be part of the tax paying population which is providing the retirement benefits for seniors. This baby-incentive is already in existence in many countries such as Singapore and Italy. But it is not enough. The seniors need to make up the difference for letting the birth rate decline to this level. Yes, it is their fault due to their selfish way of life of having just a boy and a girl or in some cases, no children at all.

The problem with above recommendation is that economic efficiency/output will fall. We will get a generational of men & women who will not be as competitive as those from other countries. This problem is beyond me. Maybe being a rich advance country is not that important?

So what does our society look like if the above can be implemented? Well, work pressures will come off the breadwinners (lets not forget those who are planning to start families). Husbands, wives and children will enjoy each other's company more (less family breakups). Couples might actually want to have more children! . All our children will get to know each better as they get to play together in the park and on the beach. We will have less landfills as we all bought less 'things'. Our environment will also be better off. The human race will then prosper as it was meant to be. We will then become a rich and advance nation.

But it all starts with a man and a woman, on their own free will, wanting to start a family. The State of Western Australia (and all other countries for that matter) must remove all obstacles and create an environment which makes man and woman want to do this. The bigger State (society) is derived from the smaller State (the family) and the bigger State must help the smaller state before it is too late.

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