



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

10 April 2006

Inquiry into Balancing Work & Family

Public Hearing: Hobart, Tuesday 11 April 2006

A federal parliamentary committee will hear from the Tasmanian Government, Catholic Women's League of Australia and a number of parents at a public hearing in Hobart tomorrow for its inquiry into balancing work and family Inquiry.

Chairman of the House of Representatives Family and Human Services Committee, Bronwyn Bishop, said the public hearing would call on witnesses to provide evidence on a how they juggle child-rearing and work.

"As policy makers, we need to understand why many people are delaying childbearing and then having smaller families than they originally desired," Mrs Bishop said.

"Child care has become one of the biggest issues for Australian families. Increasingly, people use child care to balance work and family commitments", Mrs Bishop said.

In Australia, studies have shown that childcare is used by well over half of the households with children aged 14 or less.

The Committee will examine the disincentives to starting families as well as how to make it easier for parents, who so wish, to return to the paid workforce after having had children.

The Committee will hear from the Tasmanian Government, Catholic Women's League of Australia Inc and a number of parents. The Tasmanian Government provides a wide range of family-friendly arrangements to its employees, including carers leave, maternity leave, paid adoption leave and lactation breaks. The hearing is open to all members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Venue: Committee Room 2, Parliament House, Salamanca Wharf, Hobart

Participants: Tasmanian Government (11:30am – 12:15pm)

Private citizen (12:15pm – 12:45pm)

Private citizen (12:45pm – 1:15pm)

Private citizen (2:00pm – 2:30pm)

Catholic Women's League of Australia Inc (2:30pm – 3:15 pm)

Private citizen (3:15 pm – 3:45pm)

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 email fhs.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs