

SUBMISSION NO. 9

AUTHORISED: 9/3/05 *LM*

From: Tony Lewis [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 4 March 2005 6:52 PM  
To: Committee, FHS (REPS)  
Subject: Inquiry into Balancing Work and Family: a submission

I wish to contribute to the Inquiry into Balancing Work and Family. Thank you for holding this inquiry. I hope good things come from it.

I would like you to seriously consider enabling families to do income splitting, or alternately have another taxation scale, double that of individuals, for families on a single income.

My wife recently stopped working for us to concentrate on raising a family, and we plan for her not to return until our children are at school age, because we strongly believe that the formative years are far too important for a child to delegate this to someone else other than their parent.

However, in order to pay the mortgage and continue to live, I had to leave my enjoyable, meaningful APS position, and "sell out" and become a contractor. I do less meaningful work and am the mercy of the employment market. Further, I usually work 10+ hours per day, plus pick up evening and weekend work where I can. Because of this I don't see my 10 month daughter as much as I want to.

If we could have counted my income as shared between both of us, and thus have the reduced taxation from using the lower tax thresholds, I could simply work less, live better, and be more involved in the upbringing of our child (and future children). Maybe for many families it would make the difference between living and surviving, For others, it might prove the deciding factor as to whether to have children at all.

I believe the taxation system inadvertently discourages families, especially ones that want to focus on raising kids right. I would have to find a job that pays about three times my previous income, in order to get, post-tax, what we could earn with two jobs.

I encourage you to consider taxation concessions such as this, which will help more couples to start families. I think single parents should have similar concessions, too. These changes are simple enough, once you define what a 'family' is, and seem fair.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact me.

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Tony Lewis [REDACTED]

