



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

15 August 2006

The Australian Bureau of Statistics to appear before the Committee again

The House Families Committee will hold a public hearing for its inquiry into balancing work and family in Canberra on Wednesday 16 August.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics will provide evidence on the data they have generated in relation to balancing work and family, including:

- fertility rates,
- child care,
- family characteristics, and
- the relationship between employment and the availability of child care.

Committee Chairman Bronwyn Bishop said, "Over the last 10 years the Bureau has started publishing data on how people manage care and work. This information will be very important to the Committee's deliberations."

The Committee will also take evidence (via teleconference) from a working mother who has a child with multiple disabilities. This witness will provide evidence on the difficulties encountered in finding suitable child care and the challenges faced on balancing work and family. "Some of the difficulties I have experienced have been due to my son's disabilities and illnesses but in the main, it has been unavailability and unreliability of care to allow me to work."

The hearing is open to all members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Venue: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra

Time: 10:15am – 12:00pm

Participants: Private citizen (10:15am – 11:00am)
Australian Bureau of Statistics (11:00am – 12:00pm)

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 mobile 0421 053 822 or email or visit the website at

www.apb.gov.au/house/committee/fhs