

**From:** Ben Starr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 21 March 2005 9:55 PM  
**To:** Committee, FHS (REPS)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into Balancing Work and Family

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to comment on the Inquiry into Balancing Work and Family. My wife and I married just under a year ago. We are currently looking at buying a house and are also planning to start a family. However, we believe that it is important that my wife is able to stay at home to look after the children at least until they are old enough to start school. This will require us to be on a single income with a mortgage and probably two children for at least seven years. We are realising that this is going to be very challenging financially and also that it will seriously limit our options in terms of the type of property that we can afford to purchase.

We would like to see the government doing more to encourage one parent to stay at home to look after their children. We believe that it is a very important time in a child's life for them to be around their parents. One of the reasons that we will find this financially challenging is because so many parents are not staying at home to look after their children and are therefore on a double-income and able to afford more expensive properties. This has the effect of pushing up house prices and making it harder for people on single incomes. It is sad that many families are feeling pressured to stay at work for financial reasons rather than being at home with their children. We would like to see the government introducing further tax breaks for single income families with young children, particularly income splitting.

Yours faithfully,

Ben & Helen Starr

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Queensland [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

STANDING COMMITTEE

21 MAR 2005

on Family and Human Services