



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 3 May 2006

Women to have their say on work and family

The needs of women in balancing work and family will be the focus of a public hearing to be held by the House Families Committee in Adelaide tomorrow (Thursday 4 May 2006).

Many of the witnesses will give a women's perspective on issues such as:

- women being asked at job interviews about their intentions to have families;
- women being discouraged from talking about their families at work;
- whether effective marginal tax rates make it financially rewarding for women to take up part time work; and
- the lower levels of employment among single women, compared with partnered women.

Committee Chairman Bronwyn Bishop said, "Many women today not only play a key role in the household, but they also need to earn a salary to help support their family. We have received evidence that many women cannot find a flexible employer or access quality child care. It's no wonder our fertility rate is 1.75."

"The average preferred family size for Australian women is 2.5," Mrs Bishop said. "We need to listen to women to develop the sorts of policies so that two or more children can be their reality, not just a dream."

Venue: Old Chamber Conference Room
Level 1, Parliament House
North Terrace, Adelaide

Program:

9.30am-10.30am	South Australian Government
10.30am-11.15am	South Australian Premier's Council for Women
11.30am-12.15pm	Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia
12.15pm-12.45pm	Australian Infant, Child, Adolescent, and Family Mental Health Association
12.45pm-1.30pm	Community Statements
2.00pm-2.45pm	National Council of Single Mothers and their Children
2.45pm-3.30pm	Working Women's Centre SA

For media interview: please contact Damien Jones on **0409 147 247** at the electorate office of the Committee chairman Hon Mrs Bronwyn Bishop MP.

For further information: contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4566, mobile 0421 053 822 email fhs.reps@aph.gov.au or at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/workandfamily/>