



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

29 June 2006

Why are women leaving the force? WA Police Commissioner to appear before parliamentary inquiry

The Western Australian Police Commissioner, Karl O'Callahan, and representatives of the Police Service will give evidence tomorrow (30 June) in Perth for the current parliamentary inquiry into balancing work and family.

The Commissioner has previously said that the Frontline First campaign, which is taking officers away from desks and putting them back on to the streets, was increasing the agency's focus on issues of child care, family commitments, and leave time for police officers.

In exit interviews, many female officers are citing the lack of child care and flexible working arrangements as their reason for leaving. The Police Service's submission to the inquiry says that these issues need to be addressed, particularly in regional and remote areas, if the force is to meet looming recruitment challenges.

The Commissioner will be joined by representatives from BHP Billiton who have been working with the Police Service on work force attraction and retention remote areas of Western Australia.

Committee Chair Bronwyn Bishop said, "It's encouraging to see an organisation being proactive about work force problems that will only be exacerbated by Australia's ageing population. Enabling employees to better balance work and family life will not only make for happier families, but will benefit business in increased retention rates and worker loyalty."

The Hon Sue Ellery MLC, Parliamentary Secretary, will give evidence on behalf of the Minister for Employment Protection and the Western Australian Government. Former Australian of Year, Professor Fiona Stanley, will also appear to share her views on early childhood development.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Date: Friday 30 June 2006

Venue: Main Conference Room, Commonwealth Offices, Level 39, Exchange Plaza
2 The Esplanade, Perth

Times:	9.15 am – 10.00 am	Hon Sue Ellery MLC, for the Minister for Employment Protection
	10.00 am – 10.30 am	Private citizen
	10.45 am – 11.15 am	Private citizen
	11.15 am – 12.00 pm	Western Australian Police Service and BHP Billiton
	12.00 pm – 12.45 pm	Professor Fiona Stanley AC

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 0421 051 837 or (02) 6277 4566, email rhs.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/rhs