

AUTHORISED: 16/3/05



From: Angela Cotter [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 March 2005 9:18 PM
To: Committee, FHS (REPS)
Subject: House of Reps. Work and Family Inquiry.
Hi,

I thought I would send you a few thoughts on Australia's declining fertility rates. I am a 30 year old woman, recently married, no children and a full time job.

Firstly, I have to say, that I cannot wait to have children and the following is a summary of what point my husband and I are at in our lives.

At the moment we are saving money for a house, our first home, and we are trying to have at least a 20% deposit on a \$300K home. We live in Sydney in a tiny unit with no garage, no storage and very little of anything else, but we are paying \$250 a week rent which makes us stay where we are as it is cheap, in Sydney terms. When we move, we will be moving to Canberra, where we can buy a house that would be in a suitable environment in which we can bring up children.

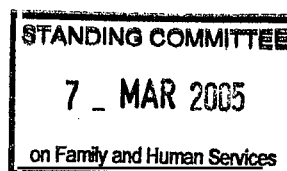
We currently both work at least 50 hours a week each in the travel industry. I run my own travel agency and my husband is an assistant Financial Controller and is studying for his CPA.

So, for us, to have a child at the moment is almost out of the question as we get ourselves together for the near future. We are looking to have children in the beginning of 2006.

As far as the situation with other people is concerned, I have found that many of our friends - all similar in age - are neither married or seem to be planning marriage in the near future. Thus, putting their child bearing back a few more years. The responses I get often from them is that they believe that "medicine is so far advanced now that it doesn't matter when we have a baby". I find this fairly concerning as no matter how far advanced medicine is, it doesn't make their own eggs any younger. I'm not sure where this belief has come from but maybe it is something that could be put forward with your inquiry.

There are articles every week about fertility rates, men being stay at home parents and so on, it is almost as if people are scared of having children. My Mother never worked and I don't believe that I will want to work when I have children either. I believe that if you are fit to be a Mother or Father then you should take the time out to raise your children yourself, not leave them in child care for someone else to look after. It just creates problems in the future because children don't have parents that they know and trust.

I also believe that it would be financially beneficial to stay at home once becoming a parent, because if two parents are working then one is effectively working to pay off the child care. It's a vicious and pointless cycle. We can probably thank feminism for that one because they like to think that women should do what men do, therefore women feel they should have a career and have a family but one is always going to be detrimental to the other.



I will leave my email at that, I could probably write a lot more but you can contact me if you would like further thoughts. My details are:

Angela Cotter

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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Kindest regards,

Angela.

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