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29-03-05.

Attn: James Catchpole
Committee Secretary.

STANDING COMMITTEE
30 MAR 2005
on Family and Human Services

A little follow up to my last letter on your "inquiry into balancing work and family", with some added newspaper clippings to aid my case - "That it is totally impossible to have any kind of existence in Sydney because of the high standard of living"

The standard of living is totally controlled by the government, so it is all your fault. But then all parliamentarians are paid excessive wages, paid a fantastic superannuation to live off, to paraphrase the media, "a bunch of fat cats."

You are not there to run the economy for yourself, you are there to run it for the people.

Newspaper clipping No.1, a million dollar home in Sydney is no longer a luxury, how ridiculous, and what's more they have to renovate.

Newspaper clipping No.2, Debt tops

\$744 BILLION an average of \$37,202 per person.

We are one of the youngest countries in the world and we have a few countries to learn from but yet we still stuff it up. The attitude of "we are Australia, we are the lucky country and we can do whatever we want because we know best," has to stop, ~~we~~ are 217 years young and we know nothing on the world stage.

Newspaper clipping No 3 possible childcare tax cuts, a great idea, but as in my first letter states - It's not up to the childcare system to bring up our children. Agreed children need to interact with each other, but not dropped off at 8.30 am and picked up at 6.00 pm while both parents work to keep up with the bills.

We recently asked for a wage rise at our work, only to be knocked back because "it's not in the budget". So to manage over the next little while we have had to increase our credit limit from \$7,000 → \$10,000, which funny enough the bank had no problem with, and it will continue to cost us \$300 per week.

to live in Sydney, we work a combined total of 80-90 hrs a week, we bring home \$1265.00 a week, and as a family of four, it costs us \$300.00 a week!!

Newspaper clipping No. 4 Retirees join the workforce. This does not surprise me, a couple of scenarios here. One, the grandparents have had to help out their families to the detriment of their own "retirement fund". Secondly if they are lucky enough not to have had to help their families, nine times out of ten their super, just isn't enough because of the "HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING", sorry to sound like an old gramophone record with the needle stuck!!

Further on the superannuation front, because we know our work super won't be enough to retire on, we set up our own quite a few years ago. We have just recently had to stop contributing for six months because we can't afford it, fortunately there is quite a bit in our fund so the funds' fees won't hurt too much but we have had to do it. To see your wife in tears over money is not something I enjoyed, and was the catalyst for this second letter.

Thanks again for your time, and
also the prompt reply from my last
letter.

Yours Sincerely
Gary Coxon

Copies of newspaper articles are available from the Secretariat

- Article 1: A million dollars put to the test by Katrina Creer
- Article 2: Family crisis, Debt tops \$744bn
- Article 3: Childcare tax cut demands by Sharon Labi
- Article 4: Retirees rejoin the workforce by Paul Clitheroe