



Dear Committee Members

In relation to balancing work with family; let me inform you that I have only one child. I had always planned more. Unfortunately the decision not to have a second child directly related to the cost of child care and the hidden costs of working (esp petrol as I was required to travel over 100k's each way to teach at the school allocated to me).

I am sure had childcare costs been a legitimate tax deduction I would have had more children. With the trend of educated and professional adults having less children in general than the wider population, this is a serious issue to be considered.

Unfortunately those who are able and motivated to work and make very valuable contributions to our communities are often faced with the choice of either working OR having family, purely due to financial constraints. It should be very possible to do both.

I am also concerned about the low value placed on childcarers, as is reflected by their meagre incomes.

A further comment is that I did experience some harrassment at the school at which I taught 9 years ago, as my principal and some teachers were disgusted by my expressing milk for my baby (in my lunch break, in a totally private room). It was suggested that I use the ladies' toilet. I hope things have advanced in the last 9 years, however I think it is another issue of which you should be aware. Support (in terms of a suitable time and place) needs to be provided to lactating employees. I came very close to resigning when it was made clear to me that expressing breast milk at work was considered inappropriate.

Yours truly,

Caroline Walch


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