



*The Tableland Women's Centre Inc*  
15 Beatrice St  
ATHERTON Q 4883

**Information, Referral, Support and Crisis Accommodation for Women & Children**

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16<sup>th</sup> November, 2005

Committee Secretary  
Community Affairs Committee  
Dept of Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: EMPLOYMENT and WORKPLACE Relations Legislation Amendments  
**(WELFARE TO WORK AND OTHER MEASURES) Bill 2005** and **FAMILY  
and COMMUNITY SERVICES Legislation Amendments (WELFARE TO  
WORK) Bill 2005**

I will attempt to be brief and informative as I address you all in relation to the amendments to the **WELFARE TO WORK Bill**. The Tableland Women's Centre Inc has operated as a non-government organization that has supported women and children over the past twenty years. I am deeply concerned by the governments rash change of heart from election promises of populate and help Australia to grow, lets build strong family ties and that woman - mothers are valued. But now it is a case of if your child is 6 -8years old, you should be back in the workforce.

May I remind you that in small rural communities where there are not enough infrastructures such as:

**NO Public transport**  
**LACK of adequate Child Care facilities**  
**LACK of Employment opportunities**  
**LACK of Doctors/Police**

this will not be a helpful or productive bill.

I know that this may seem to be petite but in the real world these issues have a resounding effect on our local community. The Atherton Tablelands is not the only rural community that has a lack of adequate facilities that make it difficult for this bill work.

The role of women did not depend on their financial contribution early in the election campaign but on the number of children they could produce to enhance this great country of ours. One minute we value the position women have in the home to

strengthen family ties, but now money needs to be recouped at the cost of the family unit. Children once again suffer in the hands of separation because of the mighty dollar. Child care subsidies do not exist for many women and therefore they work simply to keep their child/ren in child care but nothing else is let over.

WHAT INCENTIVES DO YOU GIVE TO YOUNG FAMILIES TO STRIVE AHEAD IN THIS SO CALLED LUCKY COUNTRY.

**TRY BY ALLOWING TAX BREAKS TO LOW INCOME FAMILIES OR SINGLES OF UP TO \$20,000 - \$25,000**

**GIVE PEOPLE AN INCENTIVE TO WORK AND NOT JUST SUCK US ALL DRY. HELP FAMILIES TO LIVE A HEALTHY LIFE. I TRULY WONDER IF THIS COMMITTEE HAS ANY GRUNT AT ALL TO MAKE THE NECESSARY RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT THIS GOVERNMENT FROM DESTROYING THE VERY PEOPLE IT SKITES TO SO CALL DEFEND.**

Government needs to remind themselves that de- regulation of the dairy industry, closing down of the tobacco industry just to name a few that have directly had a profound impact on our community. Limited job opportunities are already a problem for the existing population without more women having to access the workplace.

At this point of time, REAL leadership is required, governments need to address the growing HOUSING CRISIS and create jobs for such communities like ours. Make a stance today and support rural communities like ours throughout Australia. WE WERE AND STILL ARE VITAL CITIZENS IN AUSTRALIA, Don't abandon us because of BUDGET GREED!!!!!!!!!!

**GIVE US ALL THE TAX BREAKS WE DESERVE no just to yourself and your white collar buddies. WHAT ABOUT US!!!!!!!!!!**

Bernadette Morham  
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