

## **Additional Comments by Family First**

The global financial crisis is very serious and most Australians are fearful about its impact on their families and their communities. Their greatest fear is the loss of their job and the ramifications of that loss on their families, their homes and their communities.

Family First believes it is appropriate for the government to put forward a stimulus package and that a stimulus package should be passed by the Senate. The government should not have its pockets full of money or avoid going into deficit when fellow Australians – our family, friends, and neighbours – are in trouble.

But equally Family First believes this package should do more. It should be amended to help those people who have been forgotten by the government – those 100,000 people who will lose their jobs over the next year regardless of whether this package goes through or not.

The Treasury confirmed in the Committee hearings that by June 2010 there will be another 300,000 unemployed Australians. Of those 300,000 people, there will be 100,000 Australians who will lose their jobs over that period and the balance will be people who enter the labour force and cannot find a job.<sup>1</sup>

Family First believes those 100,000 people who will lose their jobs have been forgotten by this package.

Family First has put forward a Get Communities Working plan designed to help the forgotten 100,000 who will lose their jobs regardless of the government's stimulus package.

Family First has been discussing with the government diverting \$4 billion in the package to a new Get Communities Working plan investing in local communities across Australia, which would help create jobs for these forgotten 100,000 people.

These are human beings whose worth cannot be defined by numbers on a calculator.

The government's \$42 billion stimulus package ignores these people.

Family First's Get Communities Working plan would create 25,000 to 33,000 jobs.<sup>2</sup>

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1 Dr Henry, Senate Committee Hansard, 5 February 2009, page 22.

2 Information provided by the Treasurer's Office, 9 February 2009.

However, as Family First's plan only needs 10% of the total stimulus package (about \$4 billion), then it will of course create far more jobs, per dollar spent, than the Rudd Government's plan.

In fact for every 10% of the Rudd government's stimulus package Treasury estimates an average of up to 9,000 jobs will be supported and sustained.

Treasury estimates the Family First plan will create 25,000 to 30,000 jobs with the same amount of money.

The Get Communities Working plan would fund local government and charities to undertake community projects that will employ people from the forgotten 100,000.

This plan would help keep families in their homes and be useful to their community.

Now more than ever people need help, particularly in Victoria given the devastating losses of lives and homes following the horrific bushfires.

Family First wants to help those Australians who, within a year, will be without a job and without government support from this package and who will desperately need a life line.

Senator Steve Fielding

Leader of Family First