

I understand that the Finance and Public Administration Committee will hold an enquiry into the Government's \$42 billion economic stimulus package.

I am concerned that the additional economic stimulus payments further overloads the use of Family Tax Benefit A threshold for the payment of benefits. At present FTB A cuts out at a family income of \$111082 if you have two children.

If the family earns \$1 dollar more then they are no longer eligible for:

- the recent Economic Security Strategy Payment of \$1000 per child
- the proposed \$950 per child payment announced yesterday
- Education Tax Refund of \$750 per child
- Medicare Safety Net
- perhaps other stuff

This is around \$6000 per year tax free, and around \$10000 before tax. I feel it is unfair that a family can earn one dollar over the threshold and lose such a large benefit.

The situation would be much fairer if the proposed \$950 per child payment was made as an additional payment under Family Tax Benefit A, and subject to the usual 30 cents in the dollar taper. It would increase the cost, and may be called middle class welfare, but the families who would benefit are not rich.

David Billinghamurst