

SUBMISSION NO. 7

AUTHORISED: 9/3/05 *EM*

FROM: [REDACTED]
DATE: Thu 3/03/2005 11:31 AM

SUBJECT: Submission to the Inquiry into Balancing Work and Family

Dear Committee Members

Your committee has been established to enquire into the balance of family and work.

However I believe the focus on the 'disincentives to starting families' is a mistaken one, as it is a good thing that Australia's birthrate is below the replacement rate.

We inhabit the most ecologically fragile continent and an ecologically sustainable population for Australia, at current levels of per capita consumption, has been reliably calculated at 10 million people or fewer.

How can we possibly think of increasing the population, when, for example Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Adelaide and Perth are all facing serious water shortages, with no simple or non-costly solutions? The only secure future for Australia is one where there are many fewer of us.

Whilst it would be a good thing if ways could be found for people to have more time to spend with their children, and generally be less stressed and work- and finance-driven, it would be a tragedy if any measures were put in place subsequent to this enquiry which had the effect of increasing the birth-rate. Already unwise Government incentives introduced before the last election have caused a small increase in the birth-rate, which is very unfortunate.

yours sincerely

John Leonard, MA, PhD

