

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 May 2004 2:13 PM  
**To:** demographics@treasury.gov.au  
**Subject:** Demographics submissions  
You need me!

I am a 29 year old, married Australian citizen living in Japan.

My mother kindly sent me the Melbourne Age and I was compelled to write to you for this conference.

### **Problem**

Many qualified bright young Australians like me are

- a. Leaving Australia
- b. Not having children
- c. Burdened with debt

### **Why?**

- a. Job opportunities are few and far between especially full time positions.
- b. The cost of housing is spiralling and a generation of renters has been created.
- c. Saddled with debts of over \$20,000 many of us young people cannot get ahead to start preparing for the next generation.
- d. Tax is quite high in Australia for young people considering that health and education are no longer free.

### **Solution.**

- a. If you must maintain HECS make the amount redeemable on the purchase of your first home. Eg I have \$10,000 in debt and pay it off within 5 years the money is credited towards my first house.  
Maybe rethink the first home grant.

This gives people an incentive to pay it off and once people own a home they will stay in Australia.

- b. Income split for parents with children. I am only paying 5% income tax in Japan. No wonder people buckle under the pressure of single income. An average working person earning \$600 a week less tax less rent/mortgage doesn't leave much to support a mother and baby- do the figures.
- c. Greed is bad -I would bet (and maybe you can inform me) that most of the residential property in Australia is owned by few people. Make 1 rental property able to be negative geared but if people have 5 or 10 properties its not fair to give them tax breaks. Surely 1 rental house per person is enough.

The tax savings from this alone would support any tax cuts to families

d. People hiding behind family trusts and businesses are ripping off the system. I know many wealthy friends who was entitled to Auststudy because their parents had no income. The house was owned by the business and the cars were leased from the business.

e. Tax breaks for multi generational households. Surely this is a better solution than a nursing home.

You need to scare the baby boomer's into the realisation that if they cant keep their children in Australia its going to be a stranger ( and an expensive one ) who will need to feed them, change their bed sheets and toilet them.

f. Finally I would like to say that most young people leaving Australia would love to live there raise a family. Its the best country in the world but money alone will not solve the problem as has been proven in Italy and some of the Nordic countries.

People need time, support and family to have a family. Unfortunately thats why many of the lower socio economic groups have more kids. They have time due to unemployment, government support and family around.

A highly paid single person in Sydney although financially successful is not going to be a mother or father.

Good luck with the summit.

Please give me some feedback on these ideas.

Kind Regards

Alison Bowie