

I am concerned that the public is being misled about the level of subsidy the commission is proposing. The 90%-30% subsidy may sound generous to taxpayers not using childcare, but in reality these ratios are much lower given that they only apply to a 'reasonable' cost of care, which the commission deems to be \$6.37-\$7.53 per hour. Well, I live in the inner suburbs of Sydney and I looked into dozens of day care centres in the area as well as in the CBD for my kids and the cheapest rate I could see was around \$10 per hour, which is the council daycare that doesn't pay rent and that has a 3+ year waiting list to only offer 1-2 days a week if at all. My daycare centre, which is a non for profit one and one of the cheapest ones, charges between \$13-\$16 per hour, depending on age and number of days attending. I pay \$65,520 per annum for my two kids attending full time; 30% of \$7.50 per hour would amount to a rebate of \$11,700, which is only 17.8% of my total bill and less than the current rebate of \$15,000 (for 2 kids).

Of course my biggest concern is that the government will cherry pick the cheapest recommendations of the commission's report and meanstest the rebate at \$150K per household, in which case I would not get any at all. If my rebate ends up being \$11,700 then I would need to have a pre-tax income of \$70,000 per annum to justify working full time, if my rebate ends up being \$0 then I would need a salary of \$85,000. How many women in their 20's and 30's make this much?? Not many that I know of. Most young women in Sydney are forced out of full time work by the unavailability of daycare in the first place, the high cost, and the incompatibility of working (and commuting) hours with young children's routines. The statistics speak for themselves: 70%+ of women who do return to work after childbirth do it on a part time basis (and on lower wages than before) – how unfair!