

VALUING STAY-AT-HOME PARENTS

Position:

- FAMILY FIRST believes that stay-at-home parents (who are usually mothers) are greatly undervalued by society, which is a real concern. FAMILY FIRST believes the heroes of Australia are its mums and dads, who have the toughest job of all, raising children. But it is also the most important job of all, and it should be celebrated;
- FAMILY FIRST is concerned that, too often, attention is focused on workers in the paid workforce and their issues instead of the needs of unpaid workers raising children in the family home. Part of the reason is that stay-at-home parents are not seen and do not have a voice or a lobby group to advocate for them;
- FAMILY FIRST worries that many parents who would prefer to stay at home with their children, particularly when they are young, feel they have no choice but to return to the paid workforce to pay the bills and make ends meet;
- FAMILY FIRST is concerned about societal attitudes that dismiss the amazing work of stay-at-home parents as unimportant or unworthy. It is a problem because, increasingly, we seem to be sending a message to young women in particular that the only worthwhile career is in the paid workforce, climbing the corporate ladder.

Actions:

- FAMILY FIRST will campaign for more support for stay-at-home parents such as establishing community self-help groups and telephone services offering 24-hour advice.