

The Productivity Commission should consider whether it is responsible to pay extra money for people to have children in a world that is rapidly becoming overpopulated. Each year the world's human population increases by approximately 70 million. Total population is currently six and a half billion, and by 2050 will exceed 9 billion. This growth is environmentally unsustainable, as evidenced by the rising cost of oil, food and minerals, as well shortages of water and arable land.

Furthermore, is it really fair for more and more of the taxes collected from people who do not have children to be given to those who do? Such transfers include family tax benefits, childcare subsidies and the baby bonus. Many people will choose to be environmentally responsible by not having children and further contributing to unsustainable human population growth. It seems unreasonable for these people to continue to be forced (through the tax system) to subsidize those who choose to have children, particularly those with large families.

Sustainable Population Australia (TAS Branch) argues:

1. If there is to be a government-funded paid parental leave scheme then it should replace the existing baby bonus, not be as well as the baby bonus.
2. A paid parental leave scheme should be capped at two children per family.

A two-child limit would reconcile the desire to give financial assistance to parents with the need stop unsustainable population growth. If people choose to more than two children they can, but they should not be given a subsidy to do so.

Tom Nilsson
President
Sustainable Population Australia Inc, TAS Branch

24 May 2008