



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Hansard 11 November 1999

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WELFARE REFORM DISCUSSION PAPER

Ms BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (10.28 a.m.): I rise to draw the attention of honourable members of this House to the discussion paper on our welfare system, which was released this week by the Howard Government. It is a very dangerous discussion paper that signals the Howard Government's intention to withdraw benefits in order to save taxpayers' money, particularly benefits to single mothers and their children who rely upon those benefits for their very existence. It is a reprehensible discussion paper in that it signals the age of a child as the point at which support benefits for a single mother should be cut back. That age is 12 years, or it may even be six years.

It is a primitive discussion paper, because it does not attend to how, in fact, we can work on that very important issue of assisting single mothers towards employment, towards setting a better example for independent mature living than they have been able to do so far. I strongly suggest to all members of this House that they look to their own electorates to search for ways in which the Federal Government can find the true answers to this problem.
