



Speech by

Hon. GORDON NUTTALL

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Hansard 8 August 2002

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Work and Family Unit Issues Paper

Hon. G. R. NUTTALL (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.13 a.m.), by leave: This government made an election commitment to establish a Work and Family Unit in the pursuit of helping Queenslanders find a better balance between their growing work and family commitments. I am pleased to say that the ministerial task force which operates within the Work and Family Unit has reached a milestone. Recently, I released the ministerial task force's work and families issues paper, a major discussion paper that will help shape the future of our workplaces. The task force is calling for public feedback on a number of issues that are central to the changing nature of Queensland's work force—issues like increasing technology, family and carer commitments, child care, single parent workers, fertility rates, and gender equity as well as state and federal legislation.

The public will also be asked to comment on our lengthening working hours, an ageing population and diminishing levels of community interaction. The task force is made up of community, worker, employee, government and independent representatives. It will use the information to develop more than 10 family-friendly trials to be run in various industries around the state over the next two years. The information it gathers will be vital in helping Queenslanders better manage the increasing demands on their time from the community, their families and the workplace. The government is adamant that the people of Queensland have a say on an issue as important as this—an issue that affects every working person. The issues paper is available on the Department of Industrial Relations web site and I table a copy for all honourable members. In conclusion, I would urge all Queenslanders to have a say on an issue that is central to addressing the growing imbalance between our work and family time.
