

# DOING WHAT'S RIGHT FOR AUSTRALIA

The Howard Government



## SUPPORTING FAMILIES

The Howard Government believes that the family is the most important building block in our society. Helping families is not only right in principle, but a matter of national importance. In an increasingly complex world, the family unit is an important source of cohesion and stability. We can't have a strong future without strong families.

Australian families are benefiting from a stronger economy. Since 1996, average inflation (cost of living increases) has halved and interest rates have been consistently lower. Unemployment is at the lowest levels for 33 years and average wages have grown 21.5% above the cost of living (inflation). All of this means:

- Families have the ability to plan for the future with confidence.
- More jobs and better-paying jobs for Australians, with more children growing up with parents in work and having an appreciation for the work-ethic.

- Higher living standards with greater opportunities for the next generation.
- More resources, for services and practical assistance for families.

The Howard Government has a proven record of delivering for families. (See table below)

The Family Tax Benefit strongly shapes the tax system in favour of families. A recent ABS study shows that after the value of all taxes (including excise taxes and GST) and all government benefits (including Family Tax Benefits, plus education and health benefits) are taken into account, only 40% of households actually pay any net tax.

The Howard Government will continue to work hard to deliver a strong economy and practical assistance for Australian families.

	Labor	Coalition	Increase	Increase (REAL)
Investment in Family Assistance	\$12.5 bill (95/96)	\$29.7 bill (07/08)	138%	(68%)
Investment in Child Care	\$1.0 bill (95/96)	\$3.0 bill (07/08)	200%	(113%)
Number of Child Care Places	306,000 (1996)	615,000 (2006)	201%	
Recipients of Baby Bonus (currently \$4,100, will rise to \$5,000 on 1/7/08)	NONE	646,857 (as at Dec 2006)		

Real increase = Funding increase AFTER taking into account the cost of living increase over this time.



For more information about our achievements and plans for the future

