

Item of business : Social Security (Benefit Categories and Work Focus) Amendment Bill
Submission name : Tani Newton (Mrs.)

I OPPOSE this bill inasmuch as it provides for all children of beneficiaries to be forced into ECE and school from a very young age.

I agree with the aim of reducing benefit dependency, especially in the long term. Indeed, I do not believe that the government has a responsibility to provide for the unemployed.

However, to include requirements for parents to be forced to comply with government goals for the care of their children is intrusive and oppressive. My greatest concern is that this could eventually be extended to include families receiving any kind of government assistance, such as Working for Families tax credits. In that case, virtually the entire population would be affected, because as tax rates increase, people are forced into dependence on such refunds.

He was no fool who said "Give me a child until he is seven and I will give you the man." Anyone who wants to control the care and education of small children wants to control the whole of society. And there will be some success - but no-one can prevent the consequence of the state taking over child care from the family: an increase in the very social ills that are already bedevilling us. More of the same will not help.