



# Mums feeling neglected

FIFTY-FIVE per cent of women do not believe the level of support for women with children has progressed in the past 10 years under the Howard government, a survey released yesterday shows.

The survey found 25 per cent of women surveyed would happily have a third child if the government recognised the critical need for support.

Additionally, 42 per cent of women in the 18-40 age bracket would have another child if

Family First senator Steve Fielding's plan to raise the baby bonus to \$10,000 was introduced.

The Heat Group managing director Gillian Franklin says the survey shows that 67 per cent of women say they intend going back to work after having children and 30 per cent of those have absolutely no choice in the matter as they need the money.

"But the realities of going back to work are not so rosy either. A massive 91 per cent of women

say they were sidelined after taking maternity leave and 43 per cent say they were severely disadvantaged," Ms Franklin said.

She said the Australian economy was close to or already at full employment and faced a growing skills shortage.

"Families should be able to make decisions about the number of children they produce based on personal preferences and not because they don't have the level of support from government."