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Memo: News editors

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New report on kids, work and money

Please note copies of The Australia Institute's latest discussion paper, *Money Can't Buy Me Love: Young Australian's views on parental work, time, guilt and their own consumption*, by Dr Barbara Pocock and Jane Clarke are now available.

A summary of the report can be found on the Institute website at www.tai.org.au. For copies of the full report please phone 02 6249 6221.

Executive Director of The Australia Institute Dr Clive Hamilton said:

“In all of the debate over work and family no-one before had thought of asking the kids. The study shows that kids have an amazingly sophisticated understanding of what's going on in the family.

“Kids understand why their parents need to work, but they don't understand why they need to work so much.

“Many Australian households are now dominated by what might be called Grumpy Parent Syndrome.”

The report concluded that most young people want more time with their parents rather than more money through more parental work. The preference for more time is just as strong in households with a mother at home as in households where both parents work. It concludes that having mum at home does not substitute for an absent dad. It also reports that kids recognise that many parents feel guilty about their work and absence from the home.