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## Media alert

Attention: Radio and TV talkback hosts/producers

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# Commuting *versus* kids: New report

The Australia Institute has released a new report showing that 35 per cent of fathers in Sydney and 30 per cent of fathers in Melbourne spend more time commuting to and from work than they do with their children.

Drawing on the HILDA database, the report also shows that:

- workers in Sydney (4 hours and 43 minutes a week) and Melbourne (4 hours and 22 minutes a week) have much longer commuting times than elsewhere in Australia, with full-time workers spending even longer in the car
- the wage value of this commuting time is \$5253 per employee per year in Melbourne and \$5921 per employee per year in Sydney
- on average, workers from higher socio-economic groups have longer commuting times than those from low socio-economic groups
- among occupational groups, tradespeople and managers have the longest commuting times
- long commutes exact a high toll on relationships. Those who spend more time commuting spend less time with their families and socialising; and they are less likely to be active members of sporting groups and community organisations.

A summary of the report can be found under What's New on the Institute's website

**[www.tai.org.au](http://www.tai.org.au)**

For comment please contact

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The Australia Institute is a public-interest think tank based in Canberra.