

To whom it may concern,

I would like to make a provide a contribution concerning the review of Australia's tax system.

I am the primary income earner in the family, with my wife receiving a small amount from a pension (from losing her previous husband over 20 years ago). The tax effect is that I pay tax on around \$110,000 in the 40% bracket and cannot claim for my wife and family as she just earns too much (about 12,000 per year).

In another family, if there was 2 people earning say \$60,000 each, they would be taxed at 30% each for the combined \$120,000. For my family, it's 40% for nearly the same amount. The \$6000 non-table limit applies to all 4 people.

This is not a equitable arrangement.

The people on \$60,000 / year each pay \$230 in tax per week, for a combined weekly tax of \$460. For myself alone, I pay \$577 on \$110,000, and my wife pays \$17 on \$12000, a weekly total of \$594. That is a difference of about \$134 per week, or nearly \$7000 in tax per year.

These figures are not accurate but clearly illustrate the point.

I am suggesting for a couple, married of defacto, that they have the option of retaining the existing arrangement or electing to aggregate their income and split it on a 50/50 basis. It is simply about being equitable.

Such an arrangement would have social and financial benefits for the community. Obvious ones include =>

- A person in the partnership can stay at home caring for the house and children.
- This provides for more employment opportunities.

I would be happy to discuss.

Thanks you for the opportunity to contribute.

Regards

Steve Hurley