

11-2-05

Mrs. Pru Goward,
 Commissioner,
 Human Rights + Equal Opportunity
 Commission,
 GPO Box 5218, Sydney, 1042

Dear Mrs. Goward,

It was very interesting to hear you speak at the Press Club on Wednesday, & I agree with you on some things you said.

However, I'm quite sure the main trouble in people's lives is because 'society' dictates they must buy a house/flat when they get married. In my experience, notwithstanding what friends or acquaintances have done, it's the necessary mortgage payments each month which worry them. Of course it's OK when both parties are working but then when Baby comes along, the wife's contribution in cash goes.

Sometimes in small towns the factory then closes, so the man in the family who worked there obviously can't continue with the house payments. And there's not much alternative work either for him or his wife.

In our society, we must keep up with the Joneses. We must copy what our dear grandparents have done (better than). In advertisements, we are led to believe we need the latest car and of course if our neighbours see us driving in the latest car, they'll stupidly envy us. I believe in some countries, a sign of prosperity is by how many children you have - therefore all the starving children everywhere as these people can't realize just how much care it needed

to look after the children. And religion, particularly the Catholic Church, doesn't promote birth control.

So you see, Mrs. Howard, of course a lot of things you said were true, but the very main worry for married people is thinking they absolutely must have a new home/flat!! No one needs to copy anyone else but the pressure from 'society' makes them think there's something wrong with them if they won't do almost exactly what we're led to believe we must do!

Of course if you're renting, after a certain time you could say "All that rent money could have gone into buying a place" but the freedom it gives you knowing you can up & go to another place to live (perhaps never ever leaving your usual place) if you feel like it, is happiness in itself. Like, if the man in the family is offered a job somewhere else which sounds very interesting, & yes, perhaps with more pay, but interesting being the main motive to try & work there, he is less inclined to leave his "castle" & go there. So he & his family continue living in their prison, he unhappily contemplating & saying to his wife "Now if we'd gone to -----, we could have done -----".

When I live is unbearably hot, but I like the rented flat and the neighbours are all quite nice up & down the street, so to weigh up the pros & cons, I just have to put up with the blasted heat! The ideal life would be to live in different countries & avoiding our terrible Summers, but perhaps that wouldn't work, anyway I've actually have enjoyed living in different countries & working, but I suppose it's good to be near your family & friends. No one can have everything in life.

Please consider my beliefs about owning a place to live.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jenny Smith

One huge contribution to anyone's unhappiness is sitting in a car trying to get to work on time in case they're sacked. Here in Brisbane, it's unbelievable how people take their cars instead of sitting fairly comfortably in a bus or train. The simple solution would be for people who like getting to work early to avoid the heat & heavy traffic would be for everyone to start earlier, eg even 4:30 AM, in summer. But this would solve most of the heavy traffic problem. But NO! We must keep to the rules - usual 9-5! We've done this for years & it has been OK in older times but the heat is worse now. Of course some job size diversity is the answer & I used to try & get to work at 7:30 AM, the earliest allowed.