

The Sydney Morning

Tuesday August 21, 2007

First publish

THAT FINALS FEELING

SPORT



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The Sydney Morning Herald

smh.com.au Tuesday, August 21, 2007

News 7

THE NATION



■ CHILD CARE

You spent the bonus, now here's the DVD

Stephanie Peatling

PARENTS already receive the \$4133 maternity payment - dubbed the baby bonus - on the birth of a child, courtesy of the Federal Government.

Now they are set to receive a DVD telling them everything they need to know about raising their baby, including baby karaoke.

The Prime Minister, John Howard, announced yesterday the popular Raising Children website would receive an additional \$2.7 million in funding to turn its contents into a DVD that will be posted to all parents as part of a new-baby kit.

Parents can already download the content of the DVD from the website but expectant parents, or those without the time to browse the net, will have the kit posted to them later this year.

The website was launched last year. It was devised by a group called Smart Population Australia, which was set up by Divonne Holmes a Court.

Mr Howard said the site had been "highly successful in providing practical, reliable and user-friendly information for Australian parents of children zero to eight and those that support them".

The site is expected to record its 2-millionth hit soon.

The money will allow the site to keep running until 2011 and offer browsers the opportunity to search for child-related resources in their area.

Families will find it hard to ignore politicians in the next few weeks as the election campaign looms. Announcements such as yesterday's will be followed by much larger amounts of money in areas like child care and flexible working arrangements as the parties try to convince parents they are the ones which best understand their needs.

The Minister for Families and Community Services, Mal Brough, also announced yesterday the creation of an extra 1200 places in home care for parents who cannot find existing child-care services because they work irregular hours or live in areas with no child care.