

Families divided over summer time

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Robyn Turnor

June 24, 2008 08:00am

PERTHNOW EXCLUSIVE: PERTHNOW talks to two Perth families with vastly differing views on daylight saving.

IN FAVOUR

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The Roshkovs do not think it had any impact on their three children, Ben, 6, Matthew, 4, and Caitlyn, 1.

"They are not really old enough to tell the time so they just go by you telling them what time it is like "it's bed time" or whatever," Mrs Roshkov said.

"They enjoyed having more time to play outside and I guess it was a bit strange for them going to bed when it was still light, but you just tell them "it's time to go to bed"."

Mr Roshkov said it didn't take more than a day or two for the children to adjust when the clocks changed.

The Roshkovs, who own Ark Vet centres at Kelmscott and Bassendean, said they had more time to get things done around their property.



IN FAVOUR: Jo and Tony Roshkov with daughter Caitlyn, 20 months old at their Roleystone property.

Image 1 of 2

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<http://www.news.com.au/perthnow/story/0,21598,23913886-5008620,00.html>

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Mr Roshkov said it didn't take more than a day or two for the children to adjust when the clocks changed.

The Roshkovs, who own Ark Vet centres at Kelmscott and Bassendean, said they had more time to get things done around their property.

"Either one of us works until 6.30pm or so, so it gives us extra time to do things around the house because we have 5 acres here and there is always something to do.

"We also enjoyed eating dinner outside," Mr Roshkov said.

He believes people are over-reacting to the issue of daylight saving.

"I think people are a bit over the top. I like it but if it didn't come in it wouldn't be the end of the world.

You never hear people who have it saying "I don't want it any more"."

Mr Roshkov grew up with daylight saving because he lived in Sydney until he was 16: "It was strange coming here and not having it".

Mrs Roshkov was surprised by the reasons people were giving for being against the trial.

"People are quite polarised -- yes or no -- and some of the reasons about it disrupting your biological clock and you will spend the entire time tired because you put the clock forward one hour is a bit ridiculous.

"I can see it would be a hassle for people like dairy farmers because the animals don't know you have changed the clocks," she said.

"We did stuff in the garden and with the animals and you would have to find another time to do it if there wasn't daylight saving. With the extra light you just keep going."

AGAINST

JUST a few streets away Helen and Dave Nolan were battling to keep their family sane.

Their sons Nicholas, 6, and Oliver, 4, had better things to do than go to bed at their usual time.

"As a mother of two small children it was very hard to get them settled and you are still eating and trying to have an evening meal when it is very warm," Mrs Nolan said.

"Then it was just very hard to get them to bed and it could be 9 o'clock before they went to sleep and then getting them up the next day it wasn't easy as they would be really tired."

Mrs Nolan, 41, said she was not surprised by the debate that has stirred since the trial began: "With all the mums at school who discussed it, the general consensus was that it was not good."

She said she understood how young couples living near the beach might like it but her alliance was with WA's large farming community.

"I hated it. I could do without it for sure. I love the cooler weather."