

# Work/life balance set to be a juggling act

SINCE falling pregnant, the pendulum of Amber Werchon's work/life balance has slowly but steadily been swinging towards more home/family life and less time in the office.

This is in preparation for the major change the 28-year-old director of Amber Werchon Property and her partner Paul are about to experience.

In the meantime, Amber has endeavoured to set in place in a business a structure that means she will have strategic decision makers and professional, trusted staff members well equipped to run the office in her absence. This is according to the AWP policies and procedures set in place during her 11 dynamic years in the industry.

Included in that time Amber has been Real Estate Institute of Queensland Salesperson of the Year an historic three consecutive times, Outstanding Business Person of the Year - Sunshine Coast Excellence in Business Awards 2010, Telstra

Women's Awards Business Owner of the Year Finalist 2009 and 2010, Telstra Marie Claire Young Business Women's Award Finalist 2009 and 2010 and Queensland Young Achiever Career Award 2006. As well as that she finds time to speak at training seminars throughout Australia and New Zealand.

"My plan is to continue to oversee the business whilst raising our child, but working from home more, with less time in the office or on the road," Amber said. "I'm fortunate enough to have a strong support network, through both families, so that I can do what I need to do to continue to ensure AWP stays a strong brand and a market leader, whilst still taking time to bond with our baby and enjoy those special milestones.

"Obviously, until I've experienced first-hand the challenges of being a mother and business woman, it's all theoretical ... I have read a lot and listened a lot to other

mothers who juggle this lifestyle on a daily basis, and I know it's an organic process. I look forward to the challenge.

"Life, motherhood, marriage and running a business is an evolving process and I embrace the lessons that the evolution of growing brings. Even starting in real estate as a 17-year-old graduating straight from high school, I had a huge learning curve and credibility issue to overcome, and I learnt through the highs and lows, through mentors and educating myself on the industry ... I intend to take the same approach to motherhood."

In these challenging economic times, Amber says she intends for "AWP to grow stronger through the tough times so we shine in the more robust times, which will come again".

