



14 November 2023

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Re: Inquiry into the *Paid Parental Leave Amendment (More Support for Working Families) Bill 2023*

Dear Committee Secretary

UNICEF Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation Committee's inquiry into the *Paid Parental Leave Amendment (More Support for Working Families) Bill 2023*.

The social and economic benefits of adequate Paid Parental Leave (PPL) have now been well-established. PPL increases female workforce participation and health benefits for mothers, lowers infant mortality, and for fathers it increases parental satisfaction through time spent bonding with the child, and creates a more equitable division of household labour. Our previous [submissions](#) on this topic provide more detail if of interest.

UNICEF Australia welcomes the Albanese Labor Government's commitment to increase PPL to 26 weeks and thus supports the intent of this legislation. By increasing and equalising access between parents and carers to a more adequate PPL scheme, we can ensure children receive the care they need, increase the participation of men in family life, and reduce the workforce participation gap.

Warm regards,

Katie Maskiell
Head of Child Rights Policy and Advocacy
UNICEF Australia