

## **ATT: Senate Inquiry Submission regarding Paid Parental Leave**

Regarding the Paid Parental Leave Bill, I would like to express my grave concerns over discrimination in the Bill, although I agree that our parents, in particular, mothers, deserve assistance due to the birth of a child.

My concerns are the following:

### **An amendment is required to the Bill to eliminate the serious discrimination that will take place under its current format.**

- At present, unwaged mothers are excluded. All parents reduce income to pay for childcare, and those where only one parent works are in even more need of financial assistance.
- At present, this Bill 'punishes' those mothers who choose to care for their children long term at home.

### **It is unlikely to boost fertility at present.**

- If the assistance goes only to working mothers and childcare centres it is not helping those mothers who wish to have a second, third or fourth child and need to stay at home in order to care for him and run the larger household.

### **There will be a reduction in the current tax benefits to fund this scheme.**

- This would be acceptable if all mothers were being assisted, but reducing benefits like Family Tax Benefit B will further discrimination towards stay-home mums.

Therefore, on the occasion when a woman is about to have a child, she should be given a voucher or some such token which she either gives to the childcare centres to pay for the child's care, or she cashes in herself (at Centerlink for example) to cover the costs for home care.

Either the paid parental leave scheme should be made equal for all mothers, or such a proposal should be scrapped.

Yours truly,