

**Jamie Buhagiar**

**10 May 2010**

Senate Inquiry Submission  
Paid Parental Leave  
Department of the Senate

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing about the "Paid Parental Leave Scheme Bill 2010".

I would like to make the following submissions and suggestions concerning this proposal.

Amend the Bill to eliminate discrimination by including ALL families referred to in the 2011 Budget Estimates (those earning under \$150,000). They could ALL receive around \$6,300 each, to help ALL mums afford bonding time, not just working mothers.

Equal funding for all mums would be simple to calculate and administer. Amend the Bill to deliver this funding via the Government (similar to the current Baby Bonus payment means) and save taxpayers and business the unnecessary, high costs of using businesses as the "government paymaster".

Why should federal government funding punish families for their long term choice of "parent care"? Amend the Bill to remove the "work test" (sections 32 to 36 of draft Bill) and the "income test" (sections 37 to 41 of draft Bill).

The Explanatory Memorandum to the Bill says "It is expected that the cost of the scheme will be offset by increases in tax revenue and by reductions in baby bonus and family tax benefit Part B outlays and tax offsets for people receiving parental leave pay." (underlining and bold added). There is no proof of this. It is more likely, as in Sweden, that this costly scheme will not pay for itself and will result in increased taxes.

**VERY IMPORTANTLY PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THIS BILL IS AMENDED to ensure Paid Parental Leave funding does not go to babies who are stillborn or die after birth as a result of elective terminations (ABORTIONS – KILLING BABIES).**

Thank you for your attention concerning this important matter.

Yours Sincerely,  
Jamie Buhagiar