

The Social Questions Committee of the Catholic Women's League of Victoria & Wagga Wagga Inc. believe that this Draft Bill discriminates against stay at home mothers who choose to raise their own children.

Therefore we strongly recommend that equal payments be made to all mothers regardless of whether one is in the paid workforce or the unpaid workforce. Mothers who choose to look after their own children are generally amongst those who do volunteer work which saves this country billions of dollars each year. Yet the bias against these women continues from one government to the next.

Child care payments and Paid Parental Leave is double dipping while a very small amount of money goes to the 'stay at home' mum who is prepared to raise her own children (and in some cases - it is the father who is the carer).

All babies need their mums. They do not need shared caring by strangers. Mothers who give birth to triplets are given so much assistance by family and friends in keeping the household running so that the mums are able to just be with the babies. What does this tell those in government! **All babies need their mums - not child minders and not for just a few weeks.**

Stillborn is quite different to abortion and therefore we oppose parental leave for those women who abort their babies. One baby dies naturally in the womb, the other is killed in the womb. Therefore we do not believe that paid parental leave is due with regards to abortion. Noting that late term abortions are often listed as Stillbirths, we believe that this is just another abuse of language. The baby is not stillborn it is alive and well until it is torn apart limb by limb or is delivered breech up to the neck and then the neck is pierced with scissors, a suction is place in the neck and the head is squashed so that the baby can then be delivered....**dead.**

Mothers of stillborn babies grieve for the loss of their much loved child. They eventually coe to grips with the loss of a much loved child and get on with life but will carry in her heart the memory of that lost child. Most mothers who abort their babies see abortion as freeing them from an unwanted child and nothing more than a blob of tissue which is interfering with their lifestyle. Sadly their grieving will come later, will last a lifetime and will cause many problems within their lives (as research has shown).

This Draft Bill further discriminated against 'stay at home mums' as it punishes families through its "work test" and "income test."

Equal payments for all mothers is simple to calculate, administer and will save the high cost to businesses who under this scheme will become the 'government paymasters'.

Mrs. Madge Fahy,
Social Questions Committee,