

Mr Peter McMahon

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11 May 2010

Naomi Bleaser  
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Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs  
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**Submission on *Paid Parental Leave Bill 2010***  
**By facsimile to: (02) 6277 3515**

Dear Sir / Madam,

I strongly oppose the introduction of the *Paid Parental Leave Bill 2010*.

The government has sold this Bill on the basis that families can "choose" Paid Parental Leave or "choose" the lower funded Baby Bonus. No Australian family would "choose" lower funding for their newborn.

What these unlucky Baby Bonus families choose is "mother care" for their older child or children. They make a childcare choice. Just as some families give up income to pay for daycare, many families give up the mother's income to "pay" for mother care in order to give their child the best care possible. Families should not get inferior funding for their newborn because they have chosen "mother care" over a daycare centre.

Paid Parental Leave is childcare funding for parent care. The Bill's unfair "work test" is a direct attack on the childcare choice of 160,000 soon-to-be "second class" Australian families with an income of under \$150,000 who will miss out on this funding for short-term parental childcare.

In media reports the government has admitted that in 2011 the Bill's iniquitous "work test" would ~~give 148,000 families an average \$2000 more (on average \$7,342) than those receiving the Baby Bonus (around \$5,340).~~

**Recommendation:** The *Paid Parental Leave Bill 2010* should be withdrawn or amended to –

1. remove the proposed discriminatory "work test" funding;
2. ensure every newborn is given the same government funding to help enable his or her mother to do without income in order to afford bonding time.

Yours sincerely,

Peter McMahon