

THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY,
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS,
P.O. BOX 6100,
PARLIAMENT HOUSE,
CANBERRA ACT 2600.

22ND APRIL '10.

DEAR SIR/MADAM,

IN REFERENCE TO THE CURRENT INQUIRY
BEING CONDUCTED INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S DRAFT
LEGISLATION FOR ITS PAID PARENTAL LEAVE SCHEME
DUE TO BE REPORTED BY 3RD JUNE '10, I WISH
TO MAKE THESE COMMENTS VIZ,

(i) TO ADVOCATE STRONGLY THAT I
BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE EQUALITY IN PAID
PARENTAL LEAVE PAYMENTS (SET TO THE MINIMUM
WAGE) AS WELL AS ONGOING CHILDCARE PAYMENTS
FOR BOTH WORKFORCE AND UNWAGED MOTHERS.
I BELIEVE THE PROPOSALS SET-OUT BY THE TWO
POLITICAL PARTIES SEVERELY UNDERVALUE THE
VITAL ROLE PLAYED BY NON-WORKING MOTHERS
BY SUGGESTING A CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN MONEY
ALLOCATION.

(ii) SECONDLY, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE
FROM THE RECENT 'GALAXY POLL' SHOWED
THAT 59% OF PARENTS OVERALL WANTED
THE SAME SUPPORT FOR EVERY CHILD REGARDLESS
OF A FAMILY'S CHILDCARE CHOICE BE IT
DAY-CARE CENTRES, NANNIES, RELATIVES OR
PARENT CARE.

YOURS SINCERELY,

PETER J. McDONALD.

