

Submission

Paid Parental Leave Inquiry

To the members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

The proposed Paid Parental Leave Scheme Bill 2010 is extremely discriminatory. It completely neglects the mothers who choose to remain at home with their children rather than rejoin the workforce.

Single income families are already discriminated against for choosing to have one parent, usually the mother, remain at home to care for children.

If any money is to be given to assist parents it needs to be given without consideration of the employment status of the recipient. It should also not be paid for by business. While some businesses can easily afford it, most businesses in Australia are small to medium enterprises and requiring them to pay what is effectively yet another tax, will be detrimental. The result will be that some businesses will cease to trade, and others will reduce their staff numbers to cover the cost.

Single income families have been ignored for too long by too many governments. They are not second-class citizens but perform an integral and highly beneficial role in society. They nurture the future citizens of the country and provide a stabilising and supporting foundation that no other institution can. It is about time that mothers who choose to stay at home are given exactly the same benefits that other mothers are given.

In summary, if payments are to be made to women to assist them in the months following childbirth, the payment needs to be made to every mother not just those who were employed for a period of time prior to the birth.

Yours faithfully

Michael Byrne