

To,
The Senate Inquiry
Paid Parental Leave Scheme

As a father of six children and grand father of thee I acknowledge the changes in raising families during the last thirty eight years since our first child was born.

One thing that has not changed is the need for bonding and assimilation into the family whether the mother is a wage earner or not.

Many of the present day mums possibly fit into same category as we did, that is they are a partner in a small business such as farming (as we are) or a small retail or manufacturing business where the mother does not draw any wage but contributes greatly of her time to keep the business viable.

These same mums are at the forefront of volunteering whether it is at kindergarten, school, junior sport, brownies or guides, cubs or scouts. They most likely do as much work if not more than those who are in the paid workforce and are entitled to the same remuneration at time of adding to their family as those in the paid workforce.

This year is 2010 and with the number of things on the anti-discrimination list the Government should be taking the lead and making this same payment available to all new mothers without discriminating against those who are not in the so called paid workforce.

I note a reference in the media that a mother can return to work and have payment made to the stay at home dad; if this is the case surely the stay at home mum or the one working in own business is also entitled to payment.

I look forward to the day when there is no discrimination especially by Government.