

Senate Inquiry

Submission

Paid Parental Leave

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Comments and objections to sections of this Bill

- Numerous studies have shown that children, particularly young children do better when cared for by their own parents. They are healthier, having been exposed to fewer viruses; are less aggressive, not having to fight for toys, play equipment, etc. This Bill appears to be coercing more mothers into the work force.
- Many national, properly conducted polls indicate that a large majority of citizens thought it better for a mother to stay at home with her young children. These studies are backed up by the small number of babies in formal daycare (7.6%). A further 33.6% are cared for by grandmothers or in other private arrangements. Most babies are cared for by their parents in their first year of life.
- Canada has such a policy, called the Universal Child Care Benefit, for parents of every child under the age of six.

Given these facts, this Bill is discriminatory against mothers who choose to stay at home with their babies and children.

- The Paid Parental Leave Bill will give a higher average payment after tax to working mothers than is currently given to stay-at-home mothers. The Baby Bonus is \$5,340. Depending on their current wage some women will receive considerably more than this. The average is calculated at approximately \$7,500.
- According to current statistics there are 161,000 who would be eligible for the Baby Bonus and 148,000 who could receive Paid Parental Leave.
- Stay-at-home mothers are treated unfairly by the Bill, they are discriminated against.

- Why the concerted push to have all women in the workforce?

Eligibility for Paid Parental Leave is complex.

- It will require increased bureaucracy to manage the complex requirements of this Bill, who is working, for how long, is it within the range allowed, have they done sufficient work.
- A simpler method would be to give equal funding to all mothers and allow them the choice on how it is spent, either on childcare or to stay at home with their child.

The Bill gives Paid Parental Leave for stillborn babies

- Mothers of stillborn babies deserve compassion and support from society while they are grieving, however....
- Aborted infants are often classified as stillborn by abortionists. Mothers who have chosen to terminate the lives of their unborn children, or whose babies die shortly after birth, as a result of abortion, will be eligible for the Paid Parental Leave benefit. The Bill needs to be amended immediately to remove this anomaly.

Fertility rates in Australia are already below replacement levels

- Leading demographers recognize already that many Western countries face “Demographic Winter”. Their birthrates have fallen to an alarming degree, such that the long-term implications will be dire. There is no indication that Paid Parental Leave will improve Australia’s fertility rate. Sweden has the most generous paid paternal leave system in the world, yet its Total Fertility Rate is well below replacement level (1.66) and is almost at the level from which no country has ever recovered (1.5).

This Bill does not make allowances for the fact that some women are unwell during pregnancy

- The “work test” requirements will be unfair for women who are unwell, or have been told to rest during the pregnancy or are hospitalized.
- The “work test” will also be unfair for women who have had to leave the workforce due to other family problems, eg a sick child or parent.
- Will women who are looking for work but unable to find any in their area also be discriminated against?