

From:
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Submission to Community Affairs committee inquiry into Fairer Paid Parental Leave Amendment Bill 2015
Date: Friday, 31 July 2015 2:14:55 AM

Dear Committee Secretary,

I wish to voice my concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Paid Parental Leave Scheme as outlined in the "Fairer Paid Parental Leave Bill" currently before the Parliament and which has been sent to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report back.

I appreciate the opportunity to have my voice heard on this very important social policy matter.

The Abbott Government has suggested that parents who 'unfairly' use both employer and government leave entitlements are somehow 'roting' the system. This is simply untrue and a complete misrepresentation of the intention of the Government Paid Parental Leave (PPL) Scheme.

A recent survey by The Parenthood has shown 84% of parents who have used employer and Government PPL have done so to extend the time they were able to spend with their newborns. If these changes were to go ahead, I believe thousands of parents would be forced to return to work much sooner than they would have otherwise, impacting them and their child's health and well-being.

The World Health Organisation recommends that parents should spend at least 6 months at home with their newborns during those first vital months of life. This was a key objective of the Government PPL Scheme with recent reviews demonstrating it has been effective in increasing the number of parents taking up to 6 months of leave following the birth of their child.

The review also demonstrates that the Government's PPL Scheme has resulted in improvements in a mother's physical and mental health by reducing stress and allowing them to spend more time with their newborn.

If these proposed changes go ahead I fear this will send us backwards and unwind all that has been achieved since this PPL scheme was introduced in 2011.

Accordingly, I do not support this legislation and look to this Committee, its members and Members of the Federal Parliament to stop this legislation from being passed into to Law.

Regards,