

Submission

This bill appears to discriminate against mothers who choose to stay at home. Paid parental leave would give working mother's families an average of \$7,342 after tax and stay at home mums the \$5,340 Baby Bonus. Instead of this discriminatory funding, all families referred to in the 2011 Budget Estimates (those earning under \$150,000) should receive around \$6,300 each to help ALL mums afford bonding time. This funding model for all mums would be simple to administer and it would save taxpayers and business money

Eliminate the "work test" and the "income test" from the Bill: they penalise stay at home mums doing their own childcare work between pregnancies, even though all families reduce their income when they choose to have a baby.

Paid Parental Leave will not "pay for itself": The Explanatory Memorandum to the Bill says "It is expected that the cost of the scheme will be offset by increases in tax revenue and by reductions in baby bonus and family tax benefit Part B outlays and tax offsets for people receiving parental leave pay." Where is the proof of this?

How will you safeguard against mothers claiming paid parental leave but putting their newborns into daycare and claiming the 50% Child Care Rebate?

Amend the Bill against Paid Parental Leave for stillborn babies that have been "terminated". In many cases aborted babies reaching 20 weeks gestation or 400g in weight, who are born dead or alive (to die subsequently) are recognised and recorded in Birth Registries as "stillborns". To avoid any doubt, amend the Bill to ensure Paid Parental Leave funding does not go to babies who are stillborn or die after birth as a result of elective terminations.