

Senate Inquiry Submission

11 May , 2010

Paid Parental Leave

Dept. of the Senate

P.O. Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

Dear Prime Minister, Mr Rudd,

I am a mother who has chosen to stay at home to raise my 6 children.

We were married in Sept 1981. My wonderful husband and I were excited to start on a family and fell pregnant 3 months after being married. I worked with Eastwood Shopping Centre Management until two weeks before the birth of my first son. That was the last time I was employed as a wage earner.

My husband and I have struggled to raise our family and decided the best way would be for me to be home with them at all times before and after School and while they were little. This is the best decision we have made even though financially it was detrimental.

Now that my children are married, dating, and still attending school it would be wonderful for them to have a homemaker's allowance equal to the women who are wage earners of our society or at least income splitting to make it a lot fairer for those of us who choose to raise our own children in our own homes. We have done this at a financial disadvantage but are so grateful that we did make the sacrifice because our children are well adjusted and thriving citizens of our society desiring to make a better world in whatever area they choose to make a career of. We are a happy family raising people who will not be a drain on society but are uplifting and a support to society. It will be our children who will be taking care of those people who decided not to have children.

It is in the best interest in our community and our society to have happy families because you can't base a society on broken families. It's costly expensive and our resources will run dry in every respect and on every level which they are.

My Submission to the Senate includes the following:

1. Amend the Bill to eliminate discrimination to those mothers who stay at home to raise their children.
2. Equal funding for all mothers would be simple to calculate and administer.
3. Amend the Bill to remove the "work test" and the "income test" from the Bill.
4. There is no proof that Paid Parental Leave will boost Australia's fertility.
5. This costly scheme will not pay for itself and will result in increased taxes.
6. Paid Parental Leave is really a Bonding Time Reduction Scheme. The only way to increase

bonding is to give the same funding to support mother bonding for every newborn.

7. There appear to be no safeguards in the draft Bill to stop mothers claiming PPL but putting their newborns into daycare and "double dipping" by claiming the 50% Child Care Rebate.
8. 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.

The above points need to be addressed in discussing this bill.

Regards

Mrs Fiona Campbell