

12 May 2010  
The Secretary  
Committee Secretary  
Australian Senate  
Community Affairs Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

**Paid Parental Leave Scheme Bill 2010 – exposure draft**

I write to welcome the Government's decision to introduce Government-funded paid parental leave in Australia.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Western Australia (CCIWA) believes the proposed scheme, coupled with the significant levels of parental leave already provided by Australian employers, and strong social support provided by the Federal Government, compares favourably with international standards.

CCIWA supports the submission made by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 11 May 2010.

The proposed scheme is broadly supported on the basis that it is publicly funded and consistent with what is affordable and necessary for an Australia-wide scheme of this nature.

CCIWA expresses caution, however, about what it believes is an unnecessary level of administrative compliance imposed on business by the proposed scheme.

The requirement that employers administer the scheme will result in additional red-tape and administrative costs for business. The Government has not provided any rebate to employers and small business to cover these administrative costs

CCIWA is of the view that greater consistency and efficiency will be achieved if the Scheme is wholly run through the Government's Family Assistance Office.

Employers, particularly those in small and medium sized business, who are already experiencing increases in a variety of regulatory on-costs, are not in a position to bear further administrative and cost burdens.

I can be contacted by telephone on (08) 9365 7699 or email [marcia.kuhne@cciwa.com](mailto:marcia.kuhne@cciwa.com) if you wish to discuss the matter further.

Yours sincerely

 Marcia Kuhne

Manager, Industrial Relations Policy