

From: Kristina Foldesi [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 19 May 2005 9:35 PM
To: Bishop, Bronwyn (MP)
Cc: Committee, FHS (REPS)
Subject: A- Maternity payment

Dear Ms Bishop,

I write as one of the many Mothers who "missed out" on the maternity payment because my daughter was already 12 months old when I adopted her.

It is, indeed, encouraging news that the decision has been made to raise the qualifying age for the maternity payment to two years. However, I believe that there has not been enough consideration given to the needs of families who adopt older toddlers and children.

All families adopting a child face a number of expenses, and I am not necessarily speaking of the considerable expense of the adoption process (which is unrelated to age); a five year old child needs a bed and clothes and toys and books (and etc etc. etc.) just as much as an under two year old. The parents of a newly adopted three or four or six year old need to take just as much (or possibly MORE) time away from paid employment to satisfy the needs of their new son or daughter. A two and a half year old's family needs a financial boost just as much as the under two year old's family.

There is still an "inequity between the entitlements provided". This could be rectified if the qualifying age was removed altogether and ALL adopted children and their families could enjoy the benefits of the maternity payment. I hope you can help us achieve this.

Yours faithfully,

Kristina and Elysia Xue Wei Foldesi

(A family since 2002)