

25. 05.10

re Inquiry into paid parental leave



To the Committee Secretary;
Dear Sir/Madam,

Both the Government & Opposition proposals discriminate against stay-at-home mothers, who deserve to be equally funded as paid-work mothers. A study of the allowances proposed shows that the income of the first category would fall far below that of the second. Under the Govt. scheme, paid-work mothers get on an average 50% more, and under the Opposition scheme high-salary mothers would get up to \$75000 in all; this is inequitable. Both leaders claimed that the scheme would boost fertility, but Sweden has the most generous payments for salaried mothers and the fertility rate is 1.67%, well below that of Australia of 1.93%.

A recent Galaxy poll found that 64% wanted both groups to be equally funded, and 74% of parents & 79% of 18-34 age group wanted the same. I ask that you consider these matters when investigating this question. I also request that paid parental leave be set at the minimum wage for 18 weeks.

Mr. James P. Hanrahan