

**From:**  
**To:** [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** PPL scheme  
**Date:** Thursday, 16 July 2015 8:50:15 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this email in regards to the proposed paid parental leave scheme. I feel that the proposed scheme is a complete insult to us working mothers, as was the statement by the Treasurer Joe Hockey that we are "double dippers".

I have worked and paid tax on that income since I was 14 years old. I have helped to support those in our country who feel that it is their right to be paid by the Government to sit on their backsides and never work a day in their lives. When I moved away from my small country town to commence university at 17 years old, I was not entitled to anything from the Government to help me to survive and pay for university as I was still considered a dependent (even though my family home was some 120kms away) and apparently my parents earnt too much (modest salaries of a primary school teacher and bus proprietor).

The PPL that I received from the government after my first son was born was a massive help to our family. It allowed me to breastfeed him until 12 months before weaning to allow him to commence daycare at 13 months when I returned to work. I am receiving the PPL again now with my second son and plan to do the same as my first. My husband and I are planning on having a third child, however we may have to decide against us. The fact that I may be forced back into work earlier than planned, and causing me to have to wean my baby and place them on formula (and added cost as I cannot express) makes my heart break. Those first 12 months of a baby's life sets the foundations for the rest of their childhood and helps to foster a tight bond between them and mother. This was stated by our Prime Minister during his election campaign, only to see him backflip once in power.

I should not be penalised for being employed by a company who gives their employees good benefits. I pay union fees every fortnight to ensure that when our EA negotiations are undertaken, we will be well represented and cared for. My employer choses to pay maternity leave so as to keep high quality employees and remain an employer of choice.

Paid Parental Leave and the Childcare Rebate/Benefit are the only support I currently get from the Government. Please do not take this away from us, the blue collar workers who bust their guts everyday to get by. Please do not pass the proposed Paid Parental Leave scheme. There are many other areas where the Government could make savings from, however I fear that they would not like my suggestions.

Kind regards,  
Anthea Hegarty.