

Paid Parental Leave

I wish to make a submission to the Senate Inquiry on this matter.

As I see it, this proposal by our Prime Minister is unfairly discriminatory against those mothers who choose to spend their time at home bringing up their children. According to my information, the proposal would give 148,000 families an average of \$7,342 and 161,000 families the \$5,340 Baby Bonus. By treating all equally and fairly, this could amount to \$6,300 to all families referred to in the 2011 Budget Estimates. Do not all mothers need bonding time with their babies?

Such a simplification would be easier to administer.

I would like to see the "work test" and the "income test" removed from the Bill. I cannot see the proposed discriminatory Paid Parental Leave doing anything to boost fertility.

The explanatory Memorandum to the Bill says that it is expected that the cost of this scheme will be offset by increases in tax revenue and reductions in baby bonuses. Sweden's experiences with such a scheme have simply resulted in tax increases. As I have said above, this scheme is discriminatory against those mothers who devote their time at home looking after their children.

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

This Bill also gives PPL for stillborn babies. Why? Amend this Bill to ensure that no payment is made either to mothers of stillborn babies or who die as a result of elective termination.

Sarah J Hogg