



Mr Zed Seselja MP
Chair – Legislative Affairs
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Tuesday 28 July 2015

Dear Chair and Members of the Legislative Affairs Committee,

RE: INQUIRY INTO THE FAIRER PAID PARENTAL LEAVE AMENDMENT BILL 2015

On behalf of the Victorian Trades Hall Council (VTHC), I would like to express our concern for the proposed changes to this important piece of legislation.

VTHC is the peak body representing unions in Victoria, covering approximately 40 unions and almost 400,000 workers in Victoria. These workers are members of unions that reach into every industry in the state, both in the public and private sectors.

The paid parental leave (PPL) scheme was introduced in 2010 after significant consultation with unions, employer associations and women's health groups. It was widely supported by the community.

VTHC is deeply concerned about any diminishment of the rights and entitlements of working parents. The proposed legislative changes are a particular blow to working mothers in this country, who are already disadvantaged in the workforce, through lower rates of pay, less superannuation and less secure work than their male counterparts.

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Alongside the Australian Council of Trades Unions (ACTU) and our fellow trade halls in other states, VTHC has launched a petition and campaign to protect the rights and entitlements of working mothers. At street stalls and community forums across Victoria, our conversations with voters show they are unimpressed with this government's ongoing attacks on workers.



Please find enclosed a copy of our information flyer on PPL including facts about how the scheme is intended to work, as well as a USB with a short interview from Eleisha, a working mother living in Melbourne.

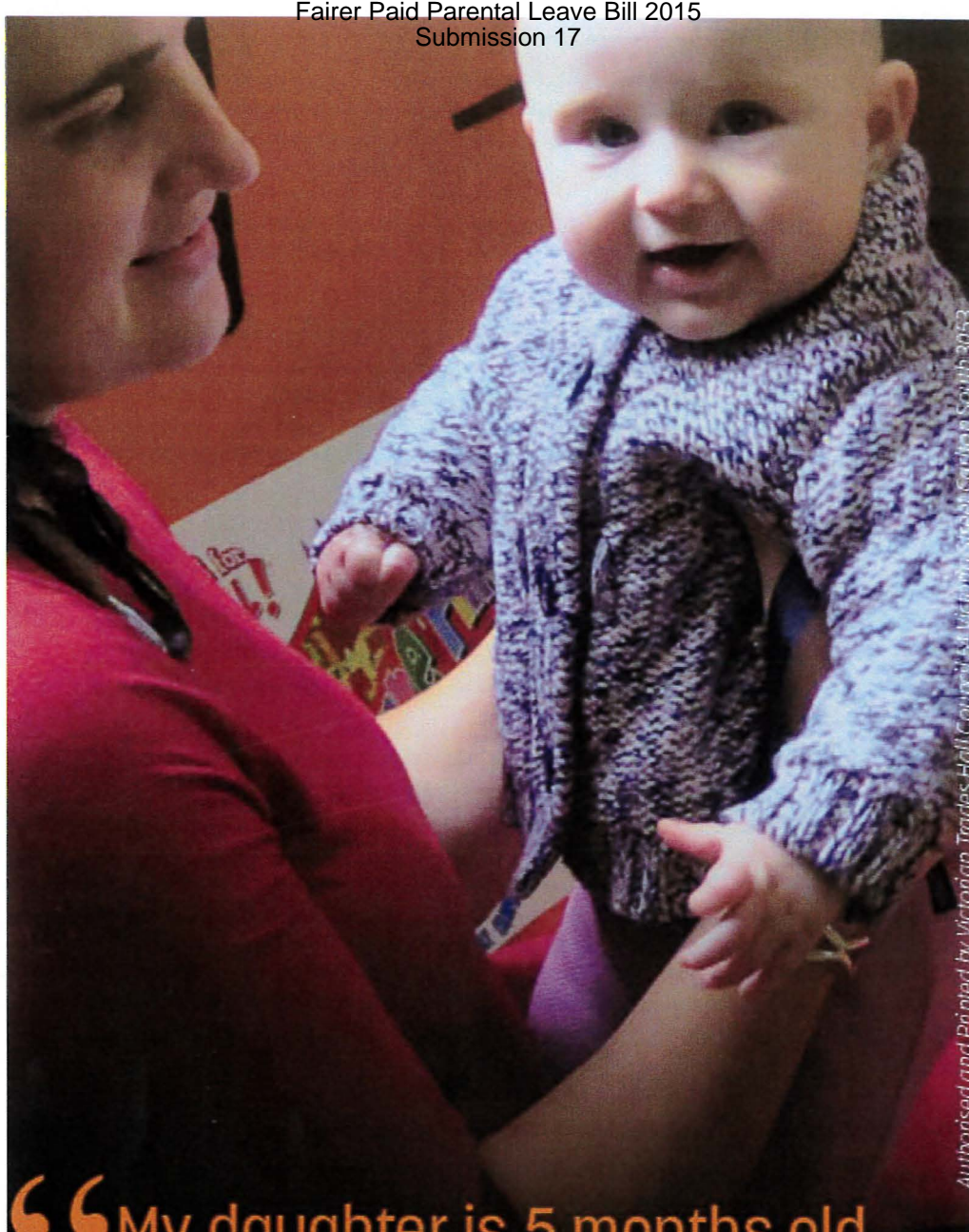
On behalf of VTHC, I urge the Committee to reject the proposed changes to the PPL legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

~~LUKE HILAKARI~~
SECRETARY

Ref: 77.31
LH: DB



Authorised and Printed by Victorian Trades Hall Council, 411 Victoria Street, Carlton South 3053

“My daughter is 5 months old. I couldn't afford to stay at home without any pay. **Tony Abbott's trying to say that people taking parental leave are somehow greedy.** It's not about that. It's about caring for your child, it's about bonding with your child, and giving them the best start in life that you possibly can.”

- Eleisha, Melbourne

WHAT TONY ABBOTT SAID...

PRE-ELECTION: *The Liberals promised **26 weeks** parental leave. "It is going to be one of the **defining marks of my leadership**".*

MOTHERS DAY 2015: ***\$1 billion cut** from parental leave. Mums accessing **18 weeks** leave are "double dipping"!*

80,000

new parents could be forced back to work early because of Tony Abbott's cuts to parental leave.



Paid parental leave around the world:



*Government paid parental leave was designed to **complement** workplace entitlements, not **replace** them.*

IT'S NOT DOUBLE-DIPPING, OR A RORT, OR FRAUD TO WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOUR BABY!

Tell Tony Abbott - Australia's modest parental leave scheme isn't a piggy bank!
Sign the petition
therealstory.org.au

BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

FIGHT FOR OUR LIVING STANDARDS