

From Wendy Francis

8 May 2010

Senate Inquiry Submission - Paid Parental Leave
Department of the Senate PO Box 6100 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

To the Senate

With regard to the Inquiry into paid parental leave I submit the following –

Kevin Rudd's Paid Parental Leave scheme will give 148,000 families an average of \$7,342 after tax and 161,000 families the \$5,340 Baby Bonus. Instead, all families referred to in the 2011 Budget Estimates (those earning under \$150,000) could receive around \$6,300 each to help ALL mothers. This equal funding for all mothers would be simple to calculate and administer - similar to the current Baby Bonus.

I believe that the proposed work and income tests will unfairly exclude unwaged mums caring for their own children between pregnancies - ie the intended PPL federal government funding will punish families who choose to care for their children themselves.

The new Bill also gives Paid Parental Leave for stillborn babies. In many cases aborted babies reaching 20 weeks gestation or 400g in weight, who are born dead or alive (to die subsequently) are recognised and recorded in Birth Registries as "stillborns". To avoid any doubt, I would also request that the Bill be amended to ensure Paid Parental Leave funding does not go to babies who are stillborn or die after birth as a result of elective terminations.

Regards
Wendy Francis