

**From:**  
**To:** [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submission for Senate Community Affairs Standing Committee re: cancellation of paid parental leave  
**Date:** Sunday, 26 July 2015 10:22:34 PM

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Hello,

My name is Stacey Wilson and I am the very lucky mother of a beautiful 2 year old daughter Delilah. She is the light of my life and thankfully from the paid parental leave, my annual leave and maternity leave entitlements from my workplace, I was able to stay at home for 7 months with my daughter without having to worry if the mortgage and bills were going to be paid during this time. This time, though the most rewarding of my life, was also the most difficult. I do not have any family who lives close by and felt quite isolated during those first few months of motherhood. Because despite all the pre-reading and advice from friends who had done it before, motherhood is hard. I really struggled with those first few months, and if I would have had to go back to work early because of financial constraints, I don't think I would have the relationship I do with my daughter. It took me about 6 months to really get into the swing of life as a mother. Please do not misunderstand that I had any regrets, I am the happiest I have ever been and my daughter is so smart and clever, because she had a good start in life. I was able to stay home and breastfeed on demand and give her all of me, because she was all that I had to worry about. I think it is so important for mothers (or fathers if the case may be) stay at home for as long as possible to be the primary caregivers to their children. They become smart, independent, healthy, kind and well adjusted little beings, because the person who loves them the most in the world can be there for them 24/7. Cutting paid parental leave will mean parents will have to go back to work sooner or not at all, therefore increasing day-care demands, or losing fantastic employable people from the workforce because they will feel they need to choose between family and work. I love being a working mom now, I believe it is the best of both worlds. However, I believe it is imperative that mothers and babes get at least six months of leave (if not more like some other countries, including, Denmark, Albania, Norway to mention a few) to bond and start life with the best chance possible of succeeding, through proper nutrition, rest, and educational play and socialization. Do not cut paid parental leave. I am a tax payer, and am happy to help fund other mothers in the future so that they can have the same opportunity I had in staying home with my beautiful daughter.

Regards,

Stacey Wilson

Registered Nurse and Member of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation