

Because Australian babies deserve the best possible start in life

The Federal Government must invest in the future health and well being of Australian babies and their families by creating a paid parental leave scheme that is bold and world class.

A paid parental leave scheme of at least six months, ideally 12 months, can provide babies with the best possible start in life.

Science provides compelling evidence that a sustained period of leave benefits both babies and mothers.

Babies need plenty of time with their mums and dads so they can get to know one another. The continuous one to one interactions between parents and their babies are crucial for healthy brain development.

Mothers need time away from work to recover from birth and establish breastfeeding. Breastfeeding where possible helps to reduce early childhood illness and has many long term health benefits.

But the reality for too many parents is they simply cannot afford the time away from work. This is why we need a system that supports Australian parents in their role as carers as well as their role as workers.

Paid parental leave means parents can stay at home with their babies with the assurance of an income and a job to return to.

Paid parental leave means babies can have the ongoing interactions with their parents they need for the development of healthy minds.

We will work together so that Australia catches up with world leaders like Sweden, the United Kingdom and Canada when it comes to paid parental leave. For our babies' well-being and Australia's future we cannot afford to remain behind.

Signatories:

Unions NSW
Australian Breastfeeding Association
Association of Lactation Consultants
Australia
The National Foundation for Australian
Women
Dr Marion Baird
CareerMums
Early Childhood Australia
Families Australia
National Association of Community
Based Children's Services
National Investment for the Early Years
The Federation of Parents and Citizens
Association of NSW

The National Pay Equity Coalition
The NSW Commission for Children and
Young People
The NSW Midwives Association
The Young Women's Christian
Association
Child and Family Health Nurses
Association
Get Up!
YWCA
President of Paediatric Nurses
Association: Westmead Children's
Hospital