

Turnbull must take cuts to PPL off the table - permanently

6 April 2016

The Turnbull Government this morning conceded it will not be able to pass its proposed cuts to Paid Parental Leave in this Parliament, following significant backlash from Australian mums and dads.

Minister Porter's announcement comes after community campaigning by groups including The Parenthood and Fair Agenda secured enough votes in the Senate against the changes.

"The government's continued attacks on new parents' paid time at home has been leaving expectant mums and dads in the lurch -- frustrated and anxious over the uncertainty of whether or not they'll be forced to leave their new babies early." Jo Briskey, Executive Director of The Parenthood said.

"Today brings good news for those with bubs due in the next few months. But unfortunately, taking time away from parents and their newborns remains Turnbull government policy."

Fair Agenda and The Parenthood issued a joint warning to the Prime Minister - "take cuts to paid parental leave off the table or expect backlash from working parents on Election Day."

A recent ReachTEL poll conducted by The Parenthood and Maurice Blackburn Lawyers found that 18 per cent of working mums are still undecided on who they'll vote for at the upcoming Federal Election.

"Many women voted for Tony Abbott on his promise to provide six months of full paid parental leave." Renee Carr, Executive Director of Fair Agenda said.

"This election will be no different - paid parental leave will be a vote changer." Ms. Briskey said.

"Health experts recommend a new parent spend 26 weeks caring for their baby if they can. The government's proposed cuts would leave tens of thousands of parents well short of that amount," Ms Carr said.

"Research commissioned by Fair Agenda has shown that the government's recent proposed cuts would hit nurses, teachers, ambos and retail service workers hard." Added Ms Carr.

Families in the scenarios modelled would stand to lose more than 4 weeks of family living expenses.

“The introduction of Paid Parental Leave was important progress in tackling the financial inequality faced by working mothers. Any cuts would drag us back in time.”

More than 35,000 community members have campaigned against the proposed cuts to parental leave since they were first suggested on Mother’s Day last year.

END

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Links

Fair Agenda report: “Analysis of the impact of the government’s MYEFO cuts to paid parental leave” from University of Sydney Women & Work Group available at www.fairagenda.org/media

ReachTEL results

ReachTEL conducted a survey of 1,087 working mothers with children under the age of 18 across Australia during the evening of 3rd March 2016.

Filter question: Are a working mother with a child under the age of 18 years old?

Yes – Included in survey No – Excluded from survey

Question 1:

If a federal election were to be held today which of the following would receive your first preference vote?

| | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| <i>The Liberal Party</i> | 30.6% |
| <i>The Nationals</i> | 3.7% |
| <i>Labor</i> | 28.8% |
| <i>The Greens</i> | 11.0% |
| <i>Palmer United Party</i> | 1.3% |
| <i>Other / Independent</i> | 6.1% |
| <i>Undecided</i> | 18.5% |

Question 1a:

Being undecided to which do you have even a slight leaning?

| | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| <i>The Liberal Party</i> | 37.4% |
| <i>The Nationals</i> | 3.9% |
| <i>Labor</i> | 30.6% |
| <i>The Greens</i> | 5.9% |
| <i>Palmer United Party</i> | 4.1% |
| <i>Other / Independent</i> | 18.2% |

Note: Only respondents who answered ‘Undecided’ to Question 1 were asked Question 1a