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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**NO SUPPORT FOR ABBOTT'S PAID PARENTAL LEAVE**

Tony Abbott appears to be the only person left who actually supports his rolled-gold paid parental leave scheme.

Reports in today's newspapers indicate that the Greens, the Nationals and plenty of the Prime Minister's own friends in the Liberal Party are starting to see sense about this extravagant and unaffordable scheme.

More and more, they are recognising that a \$5.5 billion Paid Parental Leave scheme which will give \$75,000 to wealthy women to have a baby is the wrong priority, especially when they are taking away support from Age Pensioners, Disability Support Pensioners and recipients of the Carers Payment.

It seems the only person who hasn't seen sense is the Prime Minister.

Tony Abbott's 'signature policy' also copped severe criticism from Innes Willox, Chief Executive of the Australian Industry Group, on the ABC's *Lateline* last night:

*They talk about the end of the age of entitlement and we can't see how that entitlement stacks up... We don't believe this is the way to go. It doesn't make sense on any real policy level that we can see. There's questions about its equity. There's questions about its value to the economy as a whole and there are other ways that you can bring women into the workforce...*

***[Innes Willox, ABC Lateline, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014]***

By contrast Mr Willox offered strong support for Labor's current paid parental scheme saying:

*It has the broad support of the community. It has the support of business as a whole. You haven't seen business crying out for changes to the paid parental leave program. They're quite strong supporters on the whole of what's in place at the moment. And it's got the support of women, more generally.*

*[Innes Willox , ABC Lateline, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014]*

It seems the only promise the Prime Minister refuses to break is his universally-derided paid parental leave policy. He is happy to cut pensions, cut family payments and bring in new taxes, all while giving \$75,000 to millionaires.

His priorities are completely twisted.

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