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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**ABBOTT FORCED TO SINK HIS \$20 BILLION PPL 'BARNACLE'**

Reports today indicate Tony Abbott has been forced into a humiliating backdown on his "signature policy" – his unfair and extravagant paid parental leave scheme.

There could be no greater sign of just how much trouble Tony Abbott is in with his own colleagues.

Tony Abbott has defended his unaffordable and unfair paid parental leave scheme up hill and down dale.

He has stubbornly and repeatedly promised to stand by his friendless scheme no matter what.

*"This wasn't just a policy that the Coalition took to the 2013 election, it was the policy that we took to the 2010 election. This is a policy to which I am personally very committed."*

**TONY ABBOTT – PRESS CONFERENCE – 13 MARCH 2014**

Labor, business and many of his own colleagues have long been calling on Tony Abbott to dump his paid parental leave scheme that would see millionaires paid \$50,000 to have a baby.

Now, at the end of a year of lies and broken promises, and thanks to Joe Hockey's Budget mess, Tony Abbott has finally been forced to concede defeat.

Tony Abbott must release the detail of his revised paid parental leave scheme immediately. He should have had the guts to put it to the Parliament – not wait until after the Parliament has risen for the year before announcing it.

Labor will wait to see the detail – but we know one thing for sure - if Tony Abbott was serious about helping working families' make ends meet he would reverse his \$1 billion cut to child care.

Tony Abbott's signature paid parental leave scheme looks finally set to be consigned to history.

He should now scrap those other Budget barnacles – his GP tax, pension cuts and \$100,000 degrees.

**SUNDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2014**