



MEDIA RELEASE

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HAPPY 5TH BIRTHDAY TO LABOR'S PAID PARENTAL LEAVE SCHEME

Today marks five years since the introduction of Labor's Paid Parental Leave scheme.

In the past five years, more than 550,000 Australian families have benefited from Paid Parental Leave.

Labor's Paid Parental Leave scheme has been a huge success. It has been good for parents, good for children and good for workplaces.

Before 2011 Australia was one of just two OECD countries without a comprehensive paid parental leave scheme.

Labor's scheme has given new parents the financial support to take time off work to care for their newborn in those critical early months, and kept them connected to their workplaces.

It was carefully designed to target assistance to parents on low and middle incomes, many of whom are in casual and part-time work.

It was also designed so that paid parental leave could be topped up by employers who want to add to the government's scheme, so that new mums could spend more time with their babies.

About 55 per cent of working mothers had no access to paid parental leave before Labor's scheme was introduced.

An [independent review](#) released in 2015 found that new mothers are now more likely spend more time at home with their baby after the birth, and are more likely to return to their same job because of the scheme.

Unfortunately Australia's successful paid parental leave scheme is under threat from Malcolm Turnbull and the Liberal Party.

The Liberal Government is trying to cut \$950 million in Paid Parental Leave support for thousands of families, while demonising new mums as double-dippers and rorters.

This will mean new mums will have less financial support and less time to spend with their babies because of these cuts.

The cuts are due to take place from 1 July 2016, but the legislation has not yet passed the Parliament.

Labor will keep fighting these unfair cuts. We will keep standing up for hardworking families.

Australian families know they can't trust the Liberal Government when it comes to paid parental leave.

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