

Tips for making a submission to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee on Paid Parental Leave legislation

Firstly, it's important to remember that as a parent your voice and your views matter.

You have a right to be listened to and making a submission is an important way of being heard.

Submissions do not have to be in any particular format. Your submission doesn't need to be more than a few paragraphs. The main thing is to try to be as clear and concise as possible.

We understand writing a submission seems like a daunting task but here are some simple tips for making sure your submission stands out:

1. Introduce yourself – it's great to include what federal electorate you live in.
2. Clearly state why you are interested in the issue and why it affects you. Are you a parent, grandparent, looking to have kids? Tell the committee a little bit about your family/work circumstances.
3. Strong, clear statements about what is wrong with the proposed legislation.
4. Give examples about why you are opposed to cuts to Paid Parental Leave. This is where you should include your own personal story to illustrate how the legislation fails parents. The more personal your argument, the more persuasive.
5. Make recommendations if you can, but if you don't feel confident doing this, outlining your concerns is just as important.
6. Finish by telling the committee what would happen if the legislation were to pass. Reiterate what it would mean for your family. Also, would this impact how you vote at the next election?

Remember - you don't need to be an academic or a lawyer to have your say. Your response does not need to be overly technical to be effective – in fact, as a parent, telling a personal story is the most powerful thing you can do.

Happy submission writing!