

Mums show Assistant Treasurer Frydenberg why the government has got it wrong on PPL

A group of Melbourne based mums will today conduct a 'breastfeed in' at Assistant Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg's Electorate Office in a display of disappointment at the Federal Government's proposed cuts to Paid Parental Leave.

The mums, who have all accessed both their employer's and the government's Paid Parental Leave (PPL) schemes, wanted to remind the Assistant Treasurer what was at risk with a policy that pushes women back to work before they and their children are ready.

Lara Stockdale, mum of two and teacher, was one of the many thousands of mums offended by being labeled a double dipper, claiming she had somehow rorted the system.

Ms. Stockdale wants to today remind the Assistant Treasurer that the clear purpose and value of the government's PPL is that it acts as a supplement, not a substitute for employer-based leave.

Through highlighting the demonstrated health and productivity benefits of the current scheme, Ms. Stockdale hopes to encourage Mr. Frydenberg to advocate that his government not follow through with the proposed changes.

"Having access to the government's PPL meant I could afford to spend the time I needed and wanted with my second born." Ms. Stockdale said.

"It then meant I could return to work when I was ready – less stressed, less worried – I was far more productive than had I'd been forced to come back before I was ready

"But the proposed changes to PPL mean making mums go back to work much earlier than planned– had this have happened to me, the impact on me, my family and especially my girls – the stress would have been immense."

A key policy aim of the PPL scheme was to enhance mothers' and babies' health and wellbeing. Evaluation of the government's PPL revealed several health benefits for both baby and mum - reducing stress and allowing mum to spend more time with their newborn.

"Tinkering with PPL takes time away from new mothers that they'll never get back – the government hasn't fully considered the impacts that this change will have on the wellbeing of new mums and their babies." Jo Briskey, Executive Director of The Parenthood said.

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Details of the event –

Mum's will arrive at Mr. Frydenberg's office (695 Bourke Rd, Camberwell.) at 11am today.

Contact Eleisha Mullane 0418 288 110 for further details or to speak directly with Ms. Stockdale.

Executive Director of The Parenthood Jo Briskey is available for comment on 0423 26 449.