



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**14 May 2015**

### **Parents respond to budget and budget reply**

Having now heard from both the Treasurer and Leader of the Opposition on this year's federal budget tens of thousands of Australian parents represented by The Parenthood are left feeling apprehensive about their family's futures.

Tuesday night's budget was described by working parents as one that gave with one hand but then took away with the other.

An incredible \$3.5 billion dollar boost in a new childcare package will make childcare more affordable for thousands of working mums and dads but a \$1 billion cut in Paid Parental Leave (PPL) will then leave many working parents worse off.

Mums are still reeling from being labeled, out of the blue, as "double dippers" and despite the big investment in childcare have responded to this year's budget with dismay and anger at the cuts to PPL.

It's an absolute slap in the face to working women (and men) to suggest they have been unfairly benefiting from a system that was designed to enable them to combine both employer and government PPL schemes so they could maximise the time spent with their newborn.

It is astounding that a Prime Minister committed – in election after election – to a much more generous Paid Parental Leave scheme is now taking steps to make new mums worse off.

The thousands of soon-to-be mums and dads welcome the Opposition's commitment to reject the Government's plans to cut \$1 billion from the government PPL.

The Parenthood welcomes the Opposition's plans to persist with blocking the cuts to Family Tax Benefits and other parenting payments that remain on the table from last year's budget.

However, parents had expected to hear more from Mr. Shorten tonight on Labor's plans for more affordable, high quality, early education and care.

It is absolutely vital to Australian families and their children that a significant childcare package is delivered, and delivered soon.

### **ENDS**

Thousands of Australian parents have already joined The Parenthood's campaign to stop the Treasurer's attack on working mums and the government Paid Parental Leave scheme.

For more information visit [www.theparenthood.org.au](http://www.theparenthood.org.au)

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