



**MEDIA STATEMENT
21 October 2015**

Parents welcome back down in major cuts to family payments.

Parents are very pleased to hear reports today that the Turnbull Government has decided to soften their approach to the cuts to Family Tax Benefit payments.

The Parenthood, Australia's leading parent advocacy and campaigning organisation has been campaigning against the major cuts to Family Tax Benefit (FTB) payments since they were introduced in the 2014 Federal Budget.

Jo Briskey, Executive Director of The Parenthood said that while many families would be very pleased to see the government step back from some of the major cuts to family payments, they are still asking why the government needs to take money away from families in order to fund the new childcare package.

"Today's announcement on the scaling back of proposed cuts to FTB payments is a significant milestone for The Parenthood's *Fairer Families Package* campaign." Ms. Briskey said.

"Over 6,000 parents have been campaigning against the cuts to FTB following the original announcement in the 2014 Federal Budget.

"Cross bench Senators have been receiving hundreds of emails from concerned parents in their respective States over the proposed cuts to FTB payments and Paid Parental Leave (PPL)

"These parents will be very glad to see many of these Senators have remained strong in their negotiations with the Government refusing to let the original cuts to FTB go through

"But the issue still remains that the Turnbull Government appears committed to the idea that they need to take from one family in order to give to another – that the only way to fund the new childcare package is by asking other families to pay for it.

"For instance, despite changes announced today, sole parent families with teenage children still look set to lose \$2000– that's a lot of money to a lot of families.

"Urgent action is needed to address the affordability and accessibility of childcare but mums and dads don't think it's fair to ask other families, in particular sole parent families, to pay for it

"We're also disappointed that Prime Minister Turnbull still wants to strip back the Paid Parental Leave scheme – we hope that along with changes to original cuts to FTB he will cancel the proposed cuts to PPL as well.

"If the Government is serious about supporting Australian families they will stop looking at measures that hit the family budget and find an alternative way to fund their childcare package"

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