



MEDIA RELEASE
22 October 2015

Parents call on Labor and the Greens not to let new cuts to family payments go through

The Parenthood has today launched a new campaign to keep any new proposed cuts to family payments at bay.

When the original plans to cut Family Tax Benefit (FTB) payments were introduced in the 2014 Budget, Labor and the Greens immediately came out against them and their opposition has helped to prevent some of the harshest cuts from passing the Senate.

However, families are now concerned that they don't know where Labor and the Greens currently stand and whether they are now considering supporting the government's new proposal to cut family payments.

Jo Briskey, Executive Director of The Parenthood said that while it was welcoming to see the Turnbull government move away from some of the original harsh cuts to family payments, the new package still leaves thousands of families losing a significant amount of support that they currently depend on.

"We remain fundamentally opposed to the notion that you have to take from one family in order to give to another and today we're urging Labor, the Greens and all non-government members to stand with us" Ms. Briskey said.

"It is simply unfair of the Turnbull government to expect families who depend on FTB payments to be the ones to front the cash to fund the changes so desperately needed in childcare."

The Parenthood understands that Senate estimates hearings today have heard that a significant number of families will be worse off even under the new "softer" approach to cutting family payments.

There have been reports that close to 1.5 million families who receive FTB part A payments and 1.3 million families who receive FTB part B payments would expect to lose out as a result of the current proposed changes.

"And it's clear that sole-parent families will be the ones hardest hit - it's just not fair to ask them to pay for the childcare changes we need." Ms. Briskey said

But it's not clear where Labor and the Greens currently stand on the new family payments package, so today The Parenthood has turned its attention to Bill Shorten and Richard Di Natale, urging them to just say no to this new Bill.

"Families cannot afford to lose out here and nor should they" Ms. Briskey said.

"So the message from parents to Mr. Shorten, to Mr. Di Natale and all non-government members today is this – don't let the Turnbull Government pursue the idea that the only way to fund changes to childcare is by asking other families to pay for it – there must be another way."

END.

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For more information on The Parenthood's #FairerFamiliesPackage campaign go to www.theparenthood.org.au