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Working families bitterly disappointed by childcare reform delay

Mums and dads across Australia have been let down by the Turnbull Government with tonight's Federal Budget deferring implementation of their Jobs for Families Package.

Australia's leading parent advocacy organisation, The Parenthood, has warned Mr Turnbull and his team that the delay in childcare reform undermines all other efforts to assist women returning to work after having a baby.

The Parenthood Executive Director Jo Briskey said out of pocket costs for childcare have risen by as much as 25 per cent for many families under the current government.

"Tonight's decision to delay action on affordable childcare another year will effectively cost Australian families \$1,500 over the next year," Ms Briskey said.

"Time and time again we've heard from the Coalition that they are committed to addressing the burden of ballooning childcare costs, but if tonight is anything to go by this is nothing more than talk.

"How can you be serious about jobs and growth when you're continuing to make it harder for parents to return to the workforce?"

"This budget is an absolute disappointment for families who can't afford to wait any longer for the government to take action on childcare affordability and accessibility."

Ms Briskey said it would take more than talk to woo back working parents who had lost trust in the Coalition after almost three years of backflips and inaction.

"Heading into the 2013 Federal Election, the Coalition won many working mums over for their generous Paid Parental Leave (PPL) scheme, but then they dumped it when they came to government," Ms Briskey said.

"Abbott and Hockey's cuts to PPL remain in tonight's budget.

"For many women, particularly those expecting or planning for a baby, the confusion around the Coalition's PPL policy continues to cause great distress."

Ms Briskey said it's now up to Opposition Leader Bill Shorten to present a credible and detailed suite of policies for working parents to consider.

"Labor has so far been relatively silent on their plans for PPL and childcare, so now is the time to lay their policies on the table so all Australian families can decide who will best deliver for them."

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