



Shorten delivers the lines, but can he deliver for Aussie parents?

Australian mums and dads were pleased tonight to hear Opposition Leader Bill Shorten promise that a future Labor Government would 'properly fund childcare' and 'not cut paid parental leave'.

Jo Briskey, Executive Director of The Parenthood, Australia's leading parent advocacy organisation, welcomed the Opposition's positive sentiments but urged Mr Shorten to provide greater detail.

"It's great to hear that Labor is committed to more funding for childcare and no cuts to paid parental leave, but what does that look like?," Ms Briskey said.

"Specific details are needed before mums and dads can trust Labor with their votes and with less than 60 days before Election Day it's time for Labor to be upfront about their policies.

"The cost of early learning and care is crippling household budgets right now and we need our politicians to act immediately.

"In just the last two years, out of pocket costs for childcare have increased by up to 25 per cent - the time for talk is over - parents can't wait any longer for cost relief and reform."

Ms Briskey said Mr Shorten's promise not to cut paid parental leave would come as a big relief for many Australians.

"Protecting the paid time new parents currently receive from the government is good but let's not forget that Australia's paid parental leave scheme is currently one of the least generous in the developed world," Ms Briskey said.

"Australia can and must do better to give new mums and dads more time with their babies."

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