

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**20 November 2016**

### **72,000 lose time with newborns under unacceptable PPL trade off deal**

Reports today detailing the latest iteration of the Turnbull Government's embattled Paid Parental Leave (PPL) policy would see a cap of 20 weeks placed on new parents' time with their babies.

It would also leave 72,000 new parents without time they'd have otherwise had with their new babies during those first precious months.

Nick Xenophon and team have also revealed today their willingness to break the election promises they made with voters.

Jo Briskey, Executive Director of The Parenthood, said the new deal gives some new parents an additional two weeks of time but does so by stripping that same amount of time or more from 72,000 other new parents.

"Today's new look paid parental leave policy effectively pits working mums against each other." Ms Briskey said.

"We know we have one of the worst paid parental leave systems in the world, but giving two more weeks to some new parents by making others forgo that same time or more is by no means an improvement.

"Today's deal just creates even more uncertainty and anxiety for pregnant women and the many who are planning to become pregnant soon.

"To punish 72,000 parents by stripping them of time with their newborns is cruel and unnecessary and is not the way we should be dealing with the need to improve our poor paid parental leave system.

"Plus, make no mistake – this is a broken promise from the Nick Xenophon Team who clearly agreed before the election to "vote to protect the current Paid Parental Leave system and oppose any diminution of the current system"

"Whichever way you look at it, many Australian parents voted for Mr Xenophon's Team with the understanding that they wouldn't cut PPL.

Ms Briskey said the proposed increase in government funded PPL from 18 to 20 weeks is welcomed, but cannot come from stripping time away from mums and their newborn babies.

"The mums who are set to lose time with their babies include nurses and teachers," Ms Briskey said.

"These women heal and educate our families and now they are being told that they can't get the extra time with their newborns, time they negotiated, traded off for other benefits, including pay increases, to get – it's just not right.

"We need to increase the amount of government funded PPL, but we cannot do it by taking time away from thousands of families and dissuading employers from offering family friendly working arrangements."

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