

Dear Committee of Enquiry,

Please find below our submission to the child care enquiry:

We particularly would like to comment on the planned introduction of the Paid Parental Leave scheme. This would introduce a huge disparity between the financial benefits offered to mothers in the paid workforce and those who choose to remain out of the paid workforce, forgoing a salary, so that they can provide more input in the raising of their children.

A comparison between the paltry sum available from Family Tax Benefit part B and the largesse of Paid Parental Leave makes it clear that the government does not sufficiently value the unpaid service that mothers who look after their own children provide.

Unfortunately this will result in removing the choice from many mothers who would otherwise have chosen to stay out of the paid workforce and instead remain at home with their children if the benefits were the same. Please factor this into the committee's recommendations and make sure your proposals have an equitable distribution of benefits for paid-work and non-paid-work mothers.

Yours sincerely,

Ian and Dianne Mullins