

Received by email

I used to work as an Investment analyst with a boutique fund management house in Melbourne.

There was no paid maternity benefit or leave for one to take when I had to go for my regular check up during my pregnancy.

The only thing provided was 12 mth no pay leave entitlement. After the birth of my daughter I decided to quit my job as the lack of benefit made me indifferent to keeping the job and so I resigned after my daughter turned 4 mths old as I was not prepared to return to work then.

My experience working in Singapore in the past:

In Singapore all mothers were given 2 mths' of paid maternity leave. The employer bears the cost. While there is no rule to extend that maternity leave beyond 2 mths, I do appreciate a form of paid maternity leave. I think the Australian Government should seriously consider making paid maternity leave compulsory and the employers as well as the Government could share the costs.

I am currently not working as I find it difficult emotionally to leave my daughter in the care of childcare providers. I also understand and feel for parents who like myself do not have parents/relatives living in the same state and have to shoulder the responsibility of looking after our children full time. The result of which is a lack of desire to return to the work force.

Regards
Stella Ng