

Dear Productivity Commission

I see the release of a maternity leave model is imminent.

May I ask if the leave is allocated per baby or per pregnancy? I note that when people talk about the leave they say 'when a women has a baby'. Some of us have 2 babies or 3 babies etc. To be fair to multiple birth mothers the leave needs to be allocated on a per baby basis.

For example if I have 3 babies one at a time I will get three maternity leaves. If I have triplets how much maternity leave do you think I should get? Should I get the same as other people who have three children or should I get less?

Looking after multiple births is a lot more demanding than a singleton because you can have at least one baby awake 24 hours of the day. It is not the same baby of course. Multiple birth parents have a higher rate of divorce from the strain so you can end up a single parent working full time and raising twins or triplets with other children as well. I raised twins on my own. They were chronically ill for the first two years. Multiple birth babies have higher rates of medical issues than single births. You need maternity leave for each baby. Trust me I know.

Please give equality to multiple birth mothers. Give them the same amount of leave as those who have their babies one at a time

with thanks

Gail Suttor