

Dear Sir/Madam

For the future of the country I believe this is a fantastic step forward. The ripple effect of children being allowed to bond with parents is widespread. Dr Elliot Barker MD, who founded the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, has witnessed many of the effects of children not bonding with parents. His insights into early childhood come from working as a psychiatrist for over 21 years!

Apart from the psychological benefits, to allow mum and baby more time to breastfeed if they choose, has numerous health benefits for both parties. As a breastfeeding counsellor with the La Leche League we are frequently coming across more positive facts about breastfeeding. I am sure even more benefits will be discovered in time.

I gather some countries have an even longer paid maternity leave period, even up to twelve months. If the Australian government can do this then they should, but almost 6 months is a very good start.

Yours sincerley

Hayley Walton