

Would have liked to have done this in person in Hobart. So sorry for the dodgy speedy email, but have 2 kiddies fast asleep for at least the next 10 mins.,

Please consider this my submission for the draft report.

Things that I liked..

1. Happy that you are considering universal paid leave.
2. Great that it is going to go through payroll of the company.

Issues

1. The draft report states numerous times that it is of benefit for the mother and the baby to have 6 months to spend to bond. Then why not make the scheme 24 weeks long, and if people have more leave that they can use on top of that then great. I think that it is unrealistic to think that women will be able to afford to use other leave to make up this time. Not everyone is allowed to work beyond 36 weeks of pregnancy, not everyone wants to work beyond this.

2. This same issues relates to the apparent fact (again in the draft report numerously) that people have close family who can mind the baby on a part time basis. I live interstate from all of my family (and my partners). We have no support in Tasmania from family, and have to rely on friends for temporary care of children.

3. I don't think you should refer to the amount of money people get for parental leave as a lump sum. I think this paints the picture that women are just slacking off at home living on welfare.

4. I think that there should be some incentive for organisations to slowly match the gov'n't contribution so that women have access to their whole pay during this period.

5. Women should be allowed to take their leave at half pay. So that if required they can stay at home longer.

6. You need to factor in the decrease in use of child care for the 6 months of life if this scheme were to be implemented.

Thanks

Good luck
Regards
Alicja