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21 January 2009

Inquiry into Paid Maternity, Paternity and Parental Leave
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

I respond to the invitation to provide submissions to the Inquiry into Paid Maternity, Paternity and Parental Leave. I apologise for the lateness of my submission.

I note the inquiry's terms of reference and offer the following suggestions.

- I support the provision of both paid maternity and paternity leave.
 - It is very important, particularly in the early weeks, for a mother to spend time with the baby without the added burden of financial concerns.
 - Provision of paid paternity leave following the birth of a baby would allow the father to offer valuable assistance to both mother and child.
- Paid maternity leave should not be a burden on the employer but rather be a community responsibility.
- The cost, or perhaps more appropriately 'the benefit', of paid maternity leave should come out the community taxation pool.
- Maternity leave should be paid for 14 weeks.
- Paternity leave should be paid for two weeks.
- The current Baby Bonus should be abolished and the funds allocated to finance the proposed paid parental leave.

Yours sincerely

Bob Such MP JP
Member for Fisher