



THE HON BRUCE BILLSON MP
Shadow Minister for Small Business,
Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
Federal Member for Dunkley

MEDIA RELEASE

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Moves to end Labor's needless PPL red tape burden on businesses gathers momentum

The Coalition's Paid Parental Leave (Reduction of Compliance Burden for Employers) Amendment Bill 2010 that seeks to have Centrelink's Family Assistance Office directly make paid parental leave payments to eligible workers is receiving widespread support from key business groups across the country.

When Federal Parliament resumes in February, the Coalition's legislation to end the needless and pointless red tape and compliance burden imposed on employers to be the 'pay clerk' under Labor's paid parental leave scheme will be voted on.

The Government has failed to offer any compelling reason for forcing on employers pointless 'PPL pay-clerk' responsibilities while employers face increased red-tape and costs of revising pay systems, receiving and reconciling Government instalments, and passing on payments.

It is completely false for the Gillard Government and Jenny Macklin to claim they have listened to small business concerns about the unnecessary and pointless red tape burden of its PPL scheme.

In Opposition, Labor seemed to be interested in small business concerns about the PPL administrative burden but now completely ignores the chorus of calls to relieve this imposition Julia Gillard and Jenny Macklin promised not to inflict.

In a joint media statement 'Maternity Leave' with Jenny Macklin on 13 July 2007, Julia Gillard stated;

Labor will not support a system that imposes additional financial burdens or administrative complexity on small businesses or in any way acts as a discouragement to the employment of women.

Gillard Government Ministers and Labor MPs will be faced with having to honour their words and vote for the Coalition's Private Members Bill or do as they are told and hold the 'Labor line' to retain this implementation design flaw that Government has failed to justify.

Businesses across Australia have rejected Julia Gillard's paid parental leave 'pay clerk' burden, with only 786 employers reportedly registering to bring forward the unwelcome burden.

If it is good enough for Centrelink to administer payments under the scheme for the first six 'transitional' months and for the Government to invest taxpayer funds in setting up the necessary systems, it makes perfect sense to continue these arrangements indefinitely.

The men and women of Australia's small business sector work hard, take risks, and create jobs right across the economy and should not be burdened with unnecessary costs and red-tape with administering the Government's paid parental scheme.

Media Contact: Vincent Sheehy 0417 236 109