

Subject: SBDC Media release: Small Business to gear up for changes to Paid Parental Leave

Date: Thursday, 30 June 2011 11:40 AM

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MEDIA RELEASE

No: 11/365

30 June 2011

Small businesses need to gear up for changes to Paid Parental Leave

Small business employers will need plans in place to administer new Paid Parental Leave payments when the laws change on July 1, 2011.

Small Business Development Corporation Acting Manager Director, Ms Jacky Finlayson, says it's better to have plans in place, than to be caught on the hop. "Since the first of January this year, primary carers of babies have been eligible for 18 weeks' paid parental leave at the minimum rate of pay, paid by the Commonwealth Family Assistance Office," Ms Finlayson said.

"The difference, as of the first of July, is that the payments will be made through existing pay arrangements, by the employer, rather than through Centrelink as it is currently."

With money provided in advance by the Government, the minimum wage of \$590 per week will be paid by employers to eligible employees for babies born, or adopted, from 1 July 2011.

Ms Finlayson says the rationale for these changes is all about maintaining a connection between the parent on parental leave, and the employer, therefore increasing the likelihood of their return to work.

"If these changes help maintain a supportive relationship between the employee and employer during the parental leave, and encourage a return to the workforce after the leave is completed, then that's a positive outcome," Ms Finlayson said.

"It is estimated that approximately 3 per cent of small business employers will

be involved in parental leave in any given year, so we encourage business owners who are unsure of the new procedures or who are looking for ways to accommodate the new arrangements, to contact the SBDC, or their nearest Small Business Centre.”

Contact the Small Business Development Corporation on 131 BIZ (131249) or visit www.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au <<http://www.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au>> .

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WE HAVE MOVED!

The Small Business Development Corporation is now located at
140 William Street, Perth (2nd floor, access off Murray Street Mall).

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