

Circular No: 48/2015

GK:bt-pn

To: National Secretaries, State Secretaries, TLC's, Industrial Legislation Committee, Women's Committee

From: Ged Kearney

Date: 10/7/2015

Re: **Save Paid Parental Leave**

Dear affiliate,

On 25 June 2015, the Government released the Fairer Paid Parental Leave Amendment Bill 2015 (the 'Bill'). The proposed legislation has two key objectives:

- 1) Reduce government-funded parental leave payments for employees that receive primary carers leave payments from their employer via enterprise agreements; and
- 2) Remove the employer paymaster role in administering the paid parental leave scheme.

Submissions to the Senate Inquiry in to the Bill are due on 30 July 2015.

The ACTU will be making a submission, and affiliates are encouraged to also make submissions or endorse the ACTU submission. Please find attached a preliminary analysis of the Bill prepared by the ACTU for your information.

It is critical that, in addition to making submissions on the Bill, we campaign strongly to:

1. Oppose any reduction of employee PPL entitlements which have been negotiated by unions and employers in good faith;
2. Educate and activate member and community opposition to the cuts; and
3. Build support for a PPL scheme which ultimately provides 26 weeks paid leave (on the basis of combined employer and government contributions) plus superannuation contributions.

A number of campaign activities are already underway, but will be ramped up in the lead up to the Senate Inquiry in to the Bill, including:

- ACTU and TLC campaign and online petitions;
- TLC and union workplace activities; and
- ACTU, TLC and union parliamentary lobbying activities.

Please see the attached ACTU campaign material which you can use in member communications (a format can be provided which allows for your union branding upon request), noting that a number of TLCs also have great campaign material on their websites.

In addition, the ACTU has been collaborating with the lobbying efforts of key supportive women's and community groups and we are also in the process of exploring the potential for a joint statement from key employer groups and the union movement.

We propose to hold a meeting of TLCs and interested affiliates to develop a more detailed campaign and political lobbying plan in light of the release of the Bill for either:
Monday 13 July 12.30-1.30pm or Wednesday 15 July 2.00-3.00pm or 3.00pm-4.00pm.

Please let Jane Howard or Dee De Beauchamps know if you can participate in any of these times.

In unity,

Ged Kearney
ACTU President