



Media release

Monday 28 November 2016

SA Nurses and Midwives Rally in Support of Paid Parental Leave

Nurses, midwives and care workers from across the State will rally outside the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH) today to send a strong message to SA Senators not to reduce paid parental leave.

Proposed changes by the Coalition could prevent new parents from receiving the full 18 weeks of federal government-funded leave if their employer offers a more generous parental leave scheme.

"These changes fly in the face of the World Health Organisation's recommendations and will disadvantage not only thousands of nurses, midwives, care workers and their children, but the broader community," says ANMF (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars.

"Families need all the support they can get at this early stage of a child's life and that's why nurses, midwives and care workers are deeply opposed to the changes being proposed."

The ANMF (SA Branch) is calling on all Senators to:

1. Not support the proposed legislation changes to Paid Parental Leave; and
2. Lobby the Government to uphold its commitment to support a minimum full paid six month Paid Parental Scheme.

The ANMF, which has 20,000 members in SA alone, has also launched a petition, which has already amassed more than 5,000 signatures in just two weeks.

"We will be sending all SA Senators a copy of the signed petition, appealing to them to listen to the views of both their constituents and the wider community when making a decision on this important issue," Ms Dabars says.

"Senators who vote in favour of the change need to know they will be actively disadvantaging thousands of nurses, midwives, care workers, their children and many other families in reducing the amount of time a mother can spend with her newborn child."

Ms Dabars says the voting results, in relation to both political parties and individuals will be published

With you at work and in practice

to all ANMF members.

Media Event:

Rally: Nurses, Midwives, Care Workers and Community members with flags and signs

Date: Monday 28 November

Time: 2pm

Location: Women's and Children's Hospital - Brougham Place Parklands (grassed area adjacent the hospital's Queen Victoria building entrance – Map to site; <http://bit.ly/2gmCdKS>).

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