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The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Leader of the Opposition  
Federal Member for Wentworth  
PO Box 1840  
Bondi Junction  
NSW 1335



**Copy to: The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP  
Prime Minister**



11 November 2008



Dear Mr Turnbull,

**WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION  
of QUEENSLAND INC**

### **Delay in introduction of national Paid Parental Leave / Paid Maternity Leave scheme**

The Australian Women Lawyers (AWL) Board of Directors, Executive Committees of the Women Lawyers' Association of New South Wales (WLA NSW), Women Lawyers Association of the Australian Capital Territory (WLA ACT), Women Lawyers Association of South Australia (WLA SA), Victorian Women Lawyers (VWL) and Women Lawyers Association of Queensland (WLAQ) are gravely disappointed and disturbed by recent reports that the federal government may back down on its promise to introduce a national Paid Parental Leave / Paid Maternity Leave scheme, and is citing the current state of the economy as a justification for doing this.

We note that this is despite the interim recommendations of the Productivity Commission, as part of its current national inquiry, that a tax-payer funded scheme of 18 weeks be introduced.

The need for a reliable national scheme of paid parental leave is one of the very reasons for the existence of AWL, WLA NSW, WLA ACT, WLA SA, VWL and WLAQ. It is our firm view that this is a key example of the government putting banks before families, and that the shelving of the introduction of a national scheme of Paid



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Parental Leave / Maternity Leave is irrefutably inconsistent with the government's current position on economic policy, particularly as reflected in the changes to the First Home Buyers Grant, and government guarantee on bank deposits.

AWL has made a written submission to the Productivity Commission's current Inquiry into Paid Parental Leave / Maternity Leave, and I enclose a copy of this submission for your interest and information. I will be representing AWL and participating in the current round of public hearings for this Inquiry in Adelaide on 12 November 2008.

We very much hope that the Opposition will hold the government to its promise, and would greatly value any feedback and support your office may be able to provide us with on this important issue.

I would be more than happy to meet with someone from your office for this purpose, and am contactable on the details provided in the letterhead on this letter.

I enclose a copy of a letter that has been sent to the Prime Minister about this issue.

Yours faithfully,

Lee-May Saw

Treasurer  
Australian Women Lawyers

President  
Women Lawyers' Association of NSW