

Leading up to giving birth to my second child I was working in 3 casual positions (disability carer, community based women's sector role and animal shelter). Whilst most of the money from the latter 2 positions went to tax, the small amount of money I did receive supplemented our family income which primarily went to paying our mortgage and living expenses.

As a family, we were a hard working and contributory members of the Australian community. Once I gave birth, the income I generated ceased and our family went without the meagre amount which helped us to subsist and just get by until I could once again seek, successfully apply and return to casual employment. Casual positions were the only positions that were an option for me due to the lack of extended family support for child care and the cost and availability of child care for 2 children.

A statutory paid maternity leave scheme would have allowed me, as a low paid casual worker, to receive financial support to take leave, have my children and still contribute to the family income. As a tax payer, this would have been a show of support for the years of contributing to the Australian economy, system and community. It would have recognised the contribution that I have made to Australian society.