



## **BPW Central Coast**

Submission to Productivity Commission

BPW Central Coast is affiliated with BPW International, BPW Australia and BPW NSW.

Our club representation includes women aged 22- 80 years old. They represent women who are employed, micro and small business operators; those employed by large firms.

It is difficult to come to consensus on issues that span the employer- employee basis. Our organisation supports as does BPW Australia a system of paid maternity leave. We believe as an organisation that Australia is falling behind our OECD partners as one of only 2 countries not having a system of income support whilst families are in the establishment phase.

- 1 We believe paid maternity leave should be funded by Government
- 2 We believe paid maternity leave should be available for a minimum of 14 weeks and be extended to 26 weeks over time
- 3 We believe paid maternity leave should be paid at least at minimum wage
- 4 We believe that employers can supplement these payments as an additional benefit to their staff as an incentive to retain staff
- 5 We believe that paid maternity should be available to be taken by either partner so long as the female partner takes the first 6 weeks to promote maternal health

If you require any further information please contact

Mary-Louise Clifford