

OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS TO BE HEARD: Important survey – Inquiry into Impact of Paid Parental Leave scheme on small business

Dear Member

Under current arrangements, employers must receive and pass on the Commonwealth Parental Leave Payments (PLP) to eligible employees who have a newborn or recently adopted a child and have worked for the employer for at least 12 months before the expected date of birth or adoption.

The compulsory role of employers in administering the PPL scheme has been a source of frustration for over a decade with many small-business owners reporting it increases their administrative workload and payroll processing times. As a result of recent legislative changes that come into effect from 1 July 2023 (and related amendments proposed to the *Fair Work Act 2009*), VACC is concerned that this administrative burden will significantly increase.

The Senate Education and Employment References Committee is currently inquiring into the potential impacts of the Commonwealth Paid Parental Leave (PPL) scheme on small businesses and their employees, both before and after legislative changes come into effect. The Inquiry's terms of reference can be accessed [here](#).

VACC is looking to collect evidence to support an amendment to the PPL scheme legislation which would remove the requirement for small business employers to administer the scheme directly to eligible employees – with the responsibility instead being for Services Australia to administer payments to those employees directly.

VACC's small business members are therefore invited to complete a short survey, via the link below, regarding the way in which the PPL scheme currently operates.

Importantly, your responses will assist VACC and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) prepare submissions to the Senate Inquiry in support of the removal of the requirement for small business to administer the PPL scheme directly.

You should only complete the survey once.

The survey will close on 15 May 2023 and can be accessed [here](#)

The survey is anonymous. Neither your details, nor the details of your organisation, will be collected if you complete the survey.

Members seeking further information are encouraged to contact VACC's Workplace Relations team on 03 9829 1123 or ir@vacc.com.au

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