

THE IMPACT OF CURRENT PAID PARENTAL LEAVE ON FAMILIES OF PRETERM AND SICK BABIES



Having a baby born prematurely or unwell is a stressful and challenging time for families. Babies can be in hospital for many weeks and months, and parents can struggle emotionally and financially which can further impact child development.

A NATIONWIDE CHANGE TO THE AUSTRALIAN PAID PARENTAL LEAVE ACT FOR PARENTS OF SICK OR PREMATURE BABIES IS URGENTLY NEEDED*

*We recommend one week of extra Parental Leave Pay for primary caregivers for every week a baby is in hospital beyond two weeks, with a maximum of 14 weeks extra pay. For fathers and partners we recommend an additional two weeks of extra Dad and Partner Pay.

In an Australian survey of 231 parents and their experiences of having a baby admitted to hospital for prolonged periods:

➔ 93% of parents were female

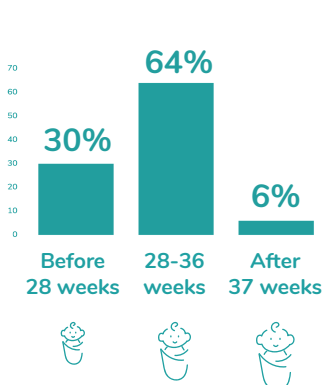
➔ 57% had to stop work early due to pregnancy related illness



➔ Most were primary caregivers

➔ Most parents worked full time in the year before their baby's birth

94% OF PARENTS HAD A BABY BORN PREMATURELY



➔ 66% of babies stayed in hospital for 1-4 months

➔ 34% were readmitted to hospital across their first year of life

➔ 45% of parents couldn't use childcare across the first year due to their child's health issues



ANXIETY & DEPRESSION



8 out of 10

Report moderate, severe or extreme levels of anxiety or depression during their baby's hospital stay

FINANCIAL IMPACT



3 out of 4

Report a moderate to very large financial impact due to their baby's extended hospital stay

HEALTHCARE COSTS



9 out of 10

Report costs associated with direct medical care in their child's first year of life as having a moderate-very large financial impact



ANXIETY & DEPRESSION

67% of parents continued to report this high level of anxiety or depression across their child's first year of life

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Whilst their baby was in hospital, costs associated with travel, food, income loss, and parent healthcare had a moderate-very large financial impact for parents



81%
Travel



75%
Food



64%
Income loss



30%
Parent healthcare
*e.g. psychology

OVER THE FIRST YEAR

Costs associated with travel, income loss and parent healthcare continued to have a moderate-very large financial impact



65%
Travel



57%
Income loss



33%
Parent healthcare
*e.g. psychology

