



DIVERSITY  
COUNCIL  
AUSTRALIA

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## Media Release

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### **Federal Government's improved Parental Leave Policy is great step forward for families and employers.**

Diversity Council Australia (DCA) has welcomed the pre-budget announcement by the federal government that they will be increasing government funded paid parental leave to 26 weeks.

"DCA has long advocated for improvements in paid parental leave as a key support for gender equality at work, and is thrilled that the government is moving towards six months of gender-neutral paid parental leave to encourage shared care by both parents.

"We are particularly pleased to the government taking a shared care approach and encouraging both parents of a child to share the leave between them.

"Paid parental leave is an important measure for women's economic security, and is good for families, the community, business and the economy.

"But policies that don't encourage sharing of care mean other parents miss out on the critical chance to bond with their children and set shared care and housework habits that will last a lifetime.

"This parental leave policy also includes greater flexibility and will support more birth parents to return to work and contribute to improving the concerning life-long earning issues attributable to the gender pay gap.

"This new minimum entitlement is a terrific step in the right direction for working families and parents, and business."

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**About DCA:** Diversity Council Australia is the independent not-for-profit peak body leading diversity and inclusion in the workplace. We provide unique research, inspiring events and programs, curated resources and expert advice across all diversity dimensions to a community of over 1,100 member organisations. Our member organisations are estimated to employ nearly two million Australians, representing up to 20% of the workforce.