

# The Paid Parental Leave scheme starts soon

## The Australian Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme starts on 1 January 2011.

Eligible employees with a child born or adopted on or after 1 January 2011 can take 18 weeks of paid parental leave at the national minimum wage, which is currently \$570 a week before tax. Full-time, part-time, casual, seasonal, contract and self-employed workers may be eligible.

From 1 July 2011, employers must provide parental leave pay to their eligible employees who have been with their business for at least 12 months before the expected date of birth or adoption of their child.

An employer's role in the scheme can start earlier if the employer and employee agree. Employers can get ready by registering now for Centrelink business online services.

The Family Assistance Office will give employers funds to provide parental leave pay to their employees. They will also contact employers to start this process.

Employers don't need to change their employee's usual pay cycle, set up special bank accounts or report back to the Family Assistance Office. They just have to provide the parental leave pay to their employee with the usual tax deducted.

Employers will not need to make super contributions on parental leave pay. Also, it will not increase employers':

- payroll tax liabilities
- workers compensation premium liabilities.



For more information about paid parental leave:

- visit the Family Assistance Office website at [www.familyassist.gov.au](http://www.familyassist.gov.au)
- advise your employer clients to phone **13 11 58**
- advise your employee clients to phone **13 61 50**.

