



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

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### **Paid Parental Leave is History in the Making**

Today's passage of the Rudd Government's Paid Parental Leave legislation through Parliament is an historic occasion and one that working women in Australia will applaud, says Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP.

"Australia will finally join the rest of the developed world when it implements the Paid Parental Leave scheme," said Ms Grierson.

"For too long women in the workforce have had to juggle their professional life with their family's demands.

"This legislation will go a long way towards addressing that dilemma."

The Rudd Government's scheme will provide eligible working parents with financial support so they can spend those important early months with their newborn baby, giving babies the best start in life.

From 1 January next year, eligible parents will receive 18 weeks Parental Leave paid at the Federal minimum wage, currently \$570 a week.

Until now, Australia and the United States were the only two OECD countries in the world without national paid parental leave schemes.

Mothers to be in Newcastle will be able to lodge claims for Paid Parental leave with the Family Assistance Office from 1 October this year.

Sharon Grierson's speech on the Paid Parental Leave legislation can be viewed at [www.sharongrierson.com/speeches](http://www.sharongrierson.com/speeches)

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