

Search

- [News](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Farming](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Life & Style](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Photos](#)
- [Print Edition](#)
- [Promotions](#)



»

- [Waikato Times](#)

[Stuff Nation](#) [Saved Stories](#)

- [Hot Topics](#) »

[Weather](#)

|

[Regional](#)

|

[Our Publications](#)

|

[Real Estate](#)

MP wants parental leave extended

LOUISE RISK Last updated 16:12 18/09/2012

Like

0

Tweet

0

Sha

Tomorrow is the 119th anniversary since Kiwi women won the right to vote, but one law that should be helping women is lagging rather than trail-blazing, according to Hamilton-based Labour MP S Moroney.

Ms Moroney, Labour's women's affairs and early childhood education spokesperson, is advocating to get paid parental leave extended from 14 weeks to 26 weeks.

She said paid parental leave was "exactly the type of issue that Kate Shephard would want women in parliament to champion

as it would encourage healthy bonds between parents and their children, and would support breastfeeding until six months.

"New Zealand women were the first in the world to win the right to vote, but 119 years later, we are last in the OECD table for length of paid parental leave we have."

The bill passed its first reading in parliament in July, when support from United Future and the Maori Party for the Labour-sponsored bill saw it scrape through with 61 votes against 60.

The bill has been sent to a select committee for public hearings, but the Government has warned it will use its power of financial veto to kill the legislation which it said would cost an extra \$150 million a year on top of the current \$157 million. But Ms Moroney said the call to veto was "premature" as the costings and immediate savings had yet to be explored.

"That will happen at the select committee part of the process which will start soon and it's there that I intend to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of the bill.

"Public submissions on the bill close on October 5 and the weight of public opinion will be important in what the Government decides to do about its financial veto."

This Friday Ms Moroney will outline her plans to a group of mothers, future mothers, grandparents, Plunket volunteers and city councillors over a lunch that will also be a belated celebration of Women's Suffrage Day.

"When I think of those women - and men - who cycled all over New Zealand in 1893 to campaign for the right of women to vote, I feel sure they would want the important role of parenting to be supported by our Parliament.

"My bill will give Kiwi families more choice and a better chance to get baby off to the best start in life."

New Zealand Women in Politics:

1893: On September 19 women won the right to vote.

1919: Women won the right to stand for Parliament.

1933: Elizabeth McCombs was the first woman elected.

1980s: The number of women in Parliament reached double-figures.

1997: National's Dame Jenny Shipley became the country's first woman Prime Minister after she gathered party-support to replace Jim Bolger.

1999: Labour's Helen Clark became the country's first elected woman Prime Minister.

louise.risk@waikatotimes.co.nz

- © Fairfax NZ News

Like 0 Tweet

Saved | [Saved Stories](#)

Save | [Saved Stories](#)

Comments

Login to post a comment:

[Log in](#) or [sign up](#)

Post