

Wednesday 25 November 2015

A commitment to paid domestic and family violence leave must be a Turnbull government priority

The ACTU very much appreciates the Labor Opposition's recognition of paid leave for those affected by domestic violence. Domestic and family violence should not be a political issue. We call for a bipartisan approach and ask that the Turnbull government also commit to paid leave for those most at need.

It is critical that people experiencing domestic violence are able to maintain their jobs and financial independence in order to escape violent situations. The current ACTU claim in the Fair Work Commission is for all workers to receive 10 days paid leave. Paid leave offers support for employees across the range of issues that arise through domestic and family violence - such as urgent medical care, legal appointments or making sure their children are safe and secure while keeping their jobs.

Unions have negotiated 860 agreements containing paid domestic violence leave with employers - covering almost two million workers - and we are pleased that the Labor Party has recognised the importance of extending this right to all Australians.

Quotes attributable to ACTU President Ged Kearney:

"A commitment to paid leave says to workers affected by domestic violence that they are supported and their job is safe."

"Research shows companies already offering paid domestic violence leave or changes to work arrangements have reported virtually no problems in their workplace. In fact, most employers reported positive benefits of providing paid domestic violence leave including improvements to their relationship with their employees."

ENDS

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