



15 April 2012

Tim Murphy
Editor
NZ Herald
P O Box 32
AUCKLAND

Dear Tim

Letter to the Editor – please print

I was disappointed to read an article in the Herald suggesting the Families Commission had 'reversed its support for paid parental leave', and believe my comments may have been misunderstood or misinterpreted. Our position at the Families Commission has always been that there are significant benefits to families from extended paid parental leave.

However, in the interview I noted that when our research was completed (in 2007) there were fewer competing calls on the government's budget. The point I was making was that we need to debate the merits of increasing paid parental leave in our current fiscal environment. If the government funds a new initiative, it may well be at the expense of existing support for families. What we need is to debate the merits of extending paid parental leave on all the facts. Our research on this issue can be found at www.nzfamilies.org.nz

Yours sincerely

Carl Davidson
Chief Commissioner