

Parental leave

An article in the *Herald* suggested the Families Commission had “reversed its support for a full year of paid parental leave”. But the commission’s position has always been that there are significant benefits to families from extended paid parental leave.

However, 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 the 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.

— *Carl Davidson,*
Families Commissioner.