

NZ Labour announce 26 weeks paid parental leave

November 2017

On Monday 6 November 2017 New Zealand Labour Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced Cabinet approval for paid parental leave to be increased to 26 weeks by 2020.

The Prime Minister announced the policy will increase paid parental leave to 22 weeks by July 1, 2018, and 26 weeks by July 1, 2020. Enabling legislation will be introduced to the House of Representatives on Wednesday 8 November 2017.

In June 2016 the NZ Labour Party introduced a bill which would have increased paid parental leave to 26 weeks. The bill did not receive requisite support to pass the House of Representatives.

The policy is part of Labour's Families Package, a key election commitment. The Package includes:

- Increasing Working for Families benefits to all those who currently receive it and extending it to 30,000 more families.
- Introducing a Best Start payment to assist families with costs in a child's early years.
- Introducing a Winter Energy Payment for people receiving superannuation or a main benefit.
- Reinstating the Independent Earners' Tax Credit.
- Implementing the Accommodation Supplement increases.

NZ Labour formed government on 19 October 2017 when it reached a coalition agreement to form minority government with the New Zealand First Party. The agreement is supported by a confidence and supply agreement between Labour and the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand. Hawker Britton's Occasional Paper on the coalition agreements is available [here](#).

More information on NZ Labour's immediate policy agenda is available [here](#).

The NZ Government ministry list is available [here](#).

Further information

For more information, please contact your Hawker Britton consultant [Simon Banks](#) on +61 419 638 587.