



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 68

3 April 1973

MATERNITY LEAVE

Cabinet today decided that all pregnant officers and employees, irrespective of whether they are married or unmarried, and irrespective of whether they were pregnant or not when first employed by the Commonwealth, shall have the right to receive at least 12 weeks' maternity leave on full pay.

This leave is to commence six weeks before the expected date of confinement and shall continue for six weeks after the date of confinement.

Each permanent officer proceeding on leave of absence for maternity purposes, must be re-employed at the end of her period of leave (which may extend to 52 weeks, inclusive of leave without pay) in her former position or in a position at a level as near as possible to the position held by the employee at the commencement of her maternity leave.

Temporary employees returning from maternity leave shall be given preference of employment over any other person seeking employment with the Commonwealth.

Male employees will be provided with additional leave of one week with pay at the time of birth of a child where the employee requires the leave to take care of the mother and/or children during the immediate post-natal days.

Legislation will be introduced as soon as possible to extend the new provisions to all Australian Government employees.

These benefits will apply from 1 January 1973.

These benefits will not be dependent upon union membership.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.