

# **NATIONAL INDEPENDENT RETAILERS ASSOCIATION**

## **Media Release**

**5 May 2010**

### **Babies include red tape**

NIRA is extremely disappointed with the recently announced approach of the government towards paid parental leave. There is more red tape in the process than is unnecessary.

Peter Strong, CEO of NIRA, said today "the government went to great extreme to consult with industry about the best approach to Paid Parental Leave and then decided to ignore all the advice. The PPL payments should be made direct to those who are eligible and not involve small business owners in the process. This is nothing more than extra unnecessary red tape. It is also disappointing that small business and big business have been treated the same way for this issue. When will those that write policy understand that small business has one person doing it all and big business has specialists?"

Mr Strong also added "There will be mistakes made, there will be confusion, there will be bad decisions and that is just from the Ministers, it will be more difficult for the small business owner who doesn't have a bureaucracy to advise support him or her."

Mr Strong stated that "the idea of paid parental leave is excellent and NIRA supports the concept but using this to create more red tape and more process for business is just plain silly."

NIRA believes that we need to continue to focus on small business as individuals and not see them as a smaller version of large corporations. The payment for PPL should come from general revenue and should not involve employers in the payment process.

Peter Strong further stated "government departments and ministers definitely need policy mid wives to get better results for the individuals whose economic and personal health depend upon their business activities."

Mr Strong added "Mark Twain once said that 'a baby is an inestimable blessing and bother' and the government has made it more bother than blessing for small business owners."

**Ends**

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