



MEDIA RELEASE

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TONY ABBOTT IN LA LA LAND ON PARENTAL LEAVE PLAN

Opposition leader Tony Abbott has again shown he has no understanding of the real cost to all Australians of his \$10.8 billion paid parental leave plan, Consumer Affairs Minister Craig Emerson said today.

Dr Emerson said Mr Abbott had no grasp of the impact of his great big new tax on Australian families at the supermarket checkout, the petrol bowser, the bank and the department store.

"Today journalists in Sydney asked Mr Abbott how he could be taken seriously when just weeks after promising lower taxes, he announces a great big new tax to pay for his parental leave plan," Dr Emerson said.

"He is vague about the detail but he needs to come clean on the impact of his paid parental leave plan on the wallets of Australia families.

"Mr Abbott is good at asking questions but now he has a few of his own to answer.

"He must explain the impact of his great big new tax on small businesses who will have to pay more every time they make a purchase from big business.

"And he must explain the impact on families who will be hit every time they make a purchase at a supermarket, department store, or a petrol station, or conduct a transaction a bank.

"The Rudd Government's paid parental leave scheme is a responsible, fully-funded policy which can kick off on January 1.

"Tony Abbott needs to have a reality check about his great big new tax and tell the truth about what it will really cost Australian consumers."

Mr Abbott's latest paid parental leave thought bubble comes after his own MPs conceded it would increase everyday costs; and after a former Liberal policy adviser confirmed the Mr Abbott's 1.7 per cent tax would be bad for the economy.

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