

SUPPORT FOR NEW PARENTS AND BABIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Hi there this is [REDACTED] here,

So firstly I have a newborn son that is 3 months old now and within these several months of being a new mother for the very first time I have noticed several stressful and rather frustrating facets within my local community in Sydney, NSW.

The first problem was taking my son to a local restraint or café and realising that there were no parent change rooms available. So I couldn't change my son's nappy within those facilities. This applies to local shopping centres I go too as well. There may be 1 parents room within the whole shopping centre, or only 1 actual room within that change room that you can breastfeed in, but it comes along with a huge long line of other mothers with their newborns waiting to breastfeed or simply change their child's diaper as well.. This needs to change. There needs to be more parents rooms available in our local restaurants, cafe's, shopping centre's and so forth across NSW.

Additionally, I also am quite upset with the Centrelink system at this current moment with the newborn supplement suddenly stopping in funds and when you have a newborn, a family to look after and rent & other bills to pay, this becomes very stressful and complex for mothers to be able to afford to pay rent or have any additional savings for their children's education and so forth ... Centrelink needs to have a higher rental assistance scheme or at least a newborn supplement that doesn't suddenly stop in payments and you're left with zero income afterwards. Similarly to thousands of other new young mothers like myself, I simply cannot work right now and leave my son in daycare due to financial reasonings and safety reasons for him also. I need to be with my newborn 24/7 at this current stage of his life. So a more fair parenting funding scheme would be very helpful for the new mothers out their that don't get left high and dry without any income from family assistance claims or rental assistance ones as such.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

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