

**Dr Mehreen Faruqi**  
Greens Member of the NSW Legislative Council



Director  
Procedure Committee, Legislative Council  
NSW Parliament

12/5/2016

Dear Director

**Re: Inquiry into Young Children Accompanying Members into the House**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Procedure Committee's 'Inquiry into Young Children Accompanying Members into the House'. The particular terms of reference are:

"That the Procedure Committee inquire into and report on

(a) whether standing order 196(3) should be varied to allow a member with a child under the age of four years to bring that child into any part of the House reserved for members while the House is sitting, and

(b) alternative mechanisms to the existing processes under Chapter 19 of the standing orders for recording the votes of members in divisions."

I am writing to indicate my support for the proposal to allow a member to bring children under the age of four into the house. As the committee is no doubt aware, it is usually mothers who undertake the lion's share of caring duties for families, and thus it is women who are most affected by rules limiting their ability to do their job concurrently. I understand there are family friendly measures in both the Australian Federal Parliament and the European Union Parliament that operate effectively.

As the house of the people, NSW Parliament should be setting an example for flexible working practices. I also support investigation into alternative voting measures under Chapter 19 of the standing orders for recording votes, in line with a commitment to workplace flexibility.

Kind Regards

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Greens NSW MP

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