



# Robyn Preston MP

## Member for Hawkesbury

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### NEW LEAVE PROVISIONS TO SUPPORT FAMILIES

Member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston MP, welcomed the NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet's Budget announcement that public sector employees will have paid special miscarriage and pre-term birth leave.

Member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston MP, said that it was good to see government leading the way in recognising an important way to support the workforce during a particularly tough time.

"Losing a child even in the early stages of pregnancy can be devastating, so I'm pleased to see this year's Budget has measures to support public sector employees, allowing them to take five days paid special leave if this occurs," Ms Preston said.

"The new provisions which come into effect on 1 July will be available to eligible full-time and part-time, ongoing, and temporary NSW Government employees where an employee or their spouse's pregnancy ceases by way of miscarriage up to 20 weeks' gestation," Treasurer Perrottet.

"Providing public sector employees with paid leave to cover the early stages of pregnancy expands on existing leave entitlements and cements the NSW Government as an employer of choice, with these provisions providing a more generous benefit than is available to public sector employees in many other jurisdictions."

"Initiatives like this show that the government understands that when tragedies like these occur, employees need time to process their loss without having to worry about financial or work-related pressures," Ms Preston said.

Minister for Women Bronnie Taylor said under the changes, special paid leave provisions will also be provided for employees who have pre-term births.

"A new arrival is always a cause for celebration but sometimes an early entry can have unexpected consequences," Mrs Taylor said.

"This leave for mothers who give birth to a pre-term baby, and their partners, will be available from the date of the early birth, up to when the birth normally would have been expected.

"It will be provided in addition to the paid parental leave that is available to employees whose baby is born after 37 weeks, ensuring families with pre-term babies have the time and resources they need for the best possible start to life."