



New Zealand's paid parental leave increase is effective

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Eligible parents of children less than six years old can now take up to 26 weeks of paid parental leave. The [Parental Leave and Employment Protection Amendment Act 2017](#) provided for the phasing-in of a longer period of parental leave, beginning with 22 weeks in 2018 (up from 18 weeks under the former law) and has now increased to 26 weeks as of 1 Jul 2020.

Eligible employees receive a parental leave payment of NZ\$606.46 per week. Parents also are entitled to paid parental leave if they become the permanent caregiver of a child aged less than six years old. Permanent care is defined as adoption or "home for life," but does not include foster care.

Related resources

- [Taking parental leave](#) (Government, 12 Jun 2020)
- [Parental Leave and Employment Protection Amendment Act 2017](#) (New Zealand Legislation, 4 Dec 2017)
- [Announcement](#) (Government, 30 Nov 2017)

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