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CIRCULAR TO DEPARTMENTS AND AUTHORITIES NO. 14 OF 2006

UNPAID CARERS' LEAVE: ADDITIONAL ENTITLEMENT FOR PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES

The *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993* now provides unpaid carers' leave for all employees, including casual employees.

Under this Act, an employee is entitled to up to two days unpaid leave on any occasion that the employee needs to provide care and support to a family or household member due to an illness or injury of the member, or an unexpected emergency affecting the member.

Casual employees employed under the Public Service Award 1992 are also entitled to take up to two days unpaid carers' leave per occasion to provide care and support to a family or household member due to the birth of a child by the member. The Government has decided to extend this entitlement to all employees in the public sector, effective from the date of this circular.

Please note, unless otherwise provided for in an industrial instrument, the right to take *unpaid* carers' leave due to the birth of a child by a family or household member does not extend to the right to take *paid* carers' leave.

SUSAN BARRERA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

25 October 2006

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