

Your responses suggest that you may request extension, but it may not go beyond 24 months from the birth of your child.

76 Extending period of unpaid parental leave—extending for up to 12 months beyond available parental leave period

Employee may request further period of leave

- (1) An employee who takes unpaid parental leave under section 71 or 72 for his or her available parental leave period may request his or her employer to agree to an extension of unpaid parental leave for the employee for a further period of up to 12 months immediately following the end of the available parental leave period.

Note: Extended periods of unpaid parental leave can include keeping in touch days on which an employee performs work (see section 79A).

Special rules for employee couples

- (6) The following paragraphs apply in relation to a member of an employee couple extending a period of unpaid parental leave in relation to a child under this section:
- (a) the request must specify:
 - (i) any amount of unpaid parental leave that the other member of the employee couple has taken, or will have taken, in relation to the child before the extension starts; and
 - (ii) if the other member has given notice in accordance with subsection 74(3A) or (3B) of the taking of flexible unpaid parental leave—the number of flexible days for the other member that will not have been taken before the extension starts;
 - (b) the period of the extension cannot exceed 12 months, less any periods of the following kinds:
 - (i) any period of unpaid parental leave, other than flexible unpaid parental leave, that the other member of the employee couple has taken, or will have taken, in relation to the child before the extension starts;
 - (ii) if subparagraph (a)(ii) applies—a period equal to the other member's notional flexible period;
 - (c) the amount of unpaid parental leave to which the other member of the employee couple is entitled under section 70 in relation to the child is reduced by the period of the extension.

No extension beyond 24 months after birth or placement

- (7) Despite any other provision of this Division, the employee is not entitled to extend the period of unpaid parental leave beyond 24 months after the date of birth or day of placement of the child.

79B Unpaid parental leave not extended by paid leave or keeping in touch days

If, during a period of unpaid parental leave, an employee:

- (a) takes paid leave; or

	(b) performs work for his or her employer on a keeping in touch day; taking that leave or performing that work does not have the effect of extending the period of unpaid parental leave.
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