

29 May 2019

Officeworks announces Growing Families policy

Officeworks today announced a new paid parental leave policy for its team members – ‘Growing Families’ – which aims to support its team members across the business as they grow their family.

Effective 1 March 2019, the new policy includes 12 weeks of paid leave, as well as superannuation contributions and long service leave accrual for the full 52 weeks for the primary carer. For a secondary carer, it includes two weeks of paid leave, including superannuation.

The policy also recognises that growing a family can happen in many ways, so it also includes support for its team members going through IVF, adoption and surrogacy.

Officeworks Managing Director, Sarah Hunter, said: “When I started at Officeworks in January, I spent a lot of time getting to know team members across the business. What became evident through these conversations, was that our paid parental leave program was not fit-for-purpose.

“We’re committed to supporting our team, particularly through one of the most exciting and challenging times in a person’s life – growing a family. So, we developed a policy that we believe better supports the transition for all our team members as they grow their family.

“Personally, I have two young children, so I know firsthand how much that support means to families. I’m delighted that we’re moving forward in this positive direction to help make bigger things happen in our team’s lives,” she said.

Paid benefits are available to all permanent team members, with eligibility commencing from the first day of their employment. Since the policy was introduced in March, more than 50 team members from across the business have applied for paid carer’s leave.

Officeworks Advertising Coordinator and mum to three, Sian van Zyl, said: “The new policy takes away a huge amount of the financial stress of being on parental leave. It’s not only allowed me to take the time I need to adjust to becoming a mother of twins very recently, but also to be there to support my toddler through this big change in his life. Because of this, I feel like I’ll be in a better place emotionally and mentally to return to work and not feel pressured to return sooner than I’m ready because of finances.”

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About Officeworks

Established in Richmond in 1994, Officeworks is Australia's leading retailer and supplier of office supplies, tech and furniture solutions for home, business and education needs. With three easy ways to shop in store, online or by phone, customers be sure to find exactly what you need with our widest range, when you need, and all at low prices. Plus, you'll enjoy friendly expert advice and helpful services. Officeworks offers customers more than 35,000 products on its website, operates a national customer service centre and has a growing team of expert business specialists to cater for micro, small and medium business customers. As part of the Wesfarmers' group, Officeworks has an extensive national footprint operating more than 165 retail stores and employing more than 7500 team members. Join Officeworks' online communities on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube.