

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Parliamentary Committee Inquiry Hearing
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs

Inquiry into ParentsNext, including its trial and subsequent broader rollout

Department of Jobs and Small Business Question No. SQ19-000110

Senator Rachel Siewert asked on 27 February 2019 on proof Hansard page 68.

Question

PCI - ParentsNext: Exemption Figures

CHAIR: Maybe you can take on notice the latest figures for the exemptions for the program.

Mr Manning : I can give you that now.

CHAIR: I think we'd better take it on notice.

Answer

- From 2 July– 31 December 2018, 14,167 exemptions were granted to 12,798 parents.

Exemption Type	Count of Exemption	Provider Granted	DHS Granted	% of Total Exemptions
Large Family with four+ Children	5,567	4,210	1,357	39%
Temporary Confinement	2,082	1,526	556	15%
Temporary Medical Incapacity	1,651	1,517	134	12%
Caring Responsibilities	1,476	1,270	206	10%
Major Personal Crisis/Disruption	898	445	453	6%
Temporary Incapacity - Illness	634	537	97	5%
DV or Relationship breakdown	621	451	170	4%
Other	1,238	926	312	9%
Total	14,167	10,882 (77%)	3,285 (23%)	100%

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Department of Jobs and Small Business Question No. SQ19-000186

Senator Murray Watt provided in writing.

Question

PCI - ParentsNext: Travel

What is the furthest distance a participant is required to travel in order to attend their appointment with their ParentsNext provider?

Answer

Participants can travel up to a maximum of 60 minutes each way to attend an appointment with their ParentsNext provider. Providers have discretion to conduct appointments flexibly, such as via telephone or video conference, where appropriate and the participant agrees. Participants can also request to transfer to a closer provider, where one is available.

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Department of Jobs and Small Business Question No. SQ19-000190

Senator Murray Watt provided in writing

Question

PCI - ParentsNext: Outcomes

How many participants have moved from the ParentsNext program to permanent employment?

Answer

ParentsNext is a pre-employment program and participants have no obligation to look for work. Notwithstanding this, a combined 1,005 participants have exited the program due to stable employment, 556 in the 2016–2018 program and 449 to 31 December 2018 from the national program.

‘Stable employment’ is defined as the participant having remained in employment for 12 consecutive weeks for an average of at least 15 hours per week (or 30 hours per fortnight).

More than 9,800 parents in the program started employment since 4 April 2016.