

Pharmacy Guild of Australia
Answers to written questions on notice from Senator Sheldon

Please find below the Pharmacy Guild's responses to the questions raised by Senator Sheldon:

Q1. Approx 4700 as renewal are ongoing

Q2. Yes employers were contacted.

Q2a. 10 members where contact based upon questions to the WR Advisor services about the PPL scheme and employer/employee obligations on registering and evidence requirements.

Q2b. Phone

Q2c. 10

Q2d. Nil

Q2e. Discussions were verbal only

Q3. Nil employees were contacted.

Q4. Pharmacy Guild WR Advisors has never been involved with or contact by an employer or aware of any incidents in community pharmacy employers in relation to maladministration, fraud or non-compliance for the PPL scheme. Members have contacted the WR Advisor services to ensure compliance with their Parental Leave obligations under the Fair Work Act 2009 and questioning the need to be involved.

Written questions on notice from Senator Sheldon

1. How many currently financial members does the Pharmacy Guild have?
2. Did the Pharmacy Guild contact any members to inform its submission to this inquiry? If yes, please advise:
 - a. How many members were contacted?
 - b. In what way were they contacted?
 - c. How many members provided input on the issue?
 - d. How many members declined to provide input?
 - e. If they were contacted in writing, please provide a copy of this correspondence (with any personal or identifying details redacted)
3. Did the Pharmacy Guild contact any employee recipients of Paid Parental Leave, who are not also owners or managers of member pharmacies, about their views on the scheme to inform its submission to this inquiry? If yes, please advise:
 - a. How many were contacted?
 - b. In what way were they contacted?

- c. How many of those contacted agreed to be consulted on this issue?
 - d. If they were contacted in writing, please provide a copy of this correspondence (with any personal or identifying details redacted)
4. The Pharmacy Guild's submission to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee on the Paid Parental Leave Scheme Bill 2010 said:

"To insist and impose a paymaster function on employers introduces a plethora of opportunity and risk for mal-administration, fraud and non-compliance from no other cause than a benign lack of understanding of their obligations."

Over the 12 years since the scheme came into effect, please advise of how many instances of maladministration, fraud or non-compliance on the count of Guild members that the Guild is aware of, and whether the Guild believes this constitutes a "plethora".