



**Sent:** Friday, 5 May 2006 2:00 PM

**To:** Committee, FHS (REPS)

**Subject:** LW forwarded AES: Question from the Hon Bronwyn Bishop taken on notice

Giving oral evidence to the Inquiry into Balancing Work and Family yesterday in Adelaide, I took a question on notice from The Hon Bronwyn Bishop. The question was whether a person who was placed on an 8 week non-payment period still received their payment if they appealed this decision. I have sought advice on this and my understanding is that if a person appeals the decision to stop their payment for 8 weeks their payment will be reinstated "pending review". This means that during the appeal process they will continue to receive their payment until a decision is made to either uphold or reject their appeal. There are four steps to this: firstly, they ask the original decision maker to reconsider their decision – if the decision to stop payment is upheld, they can then ask a Centrelink Authorised Review Officer (ARO) to consider if this was the correct decision and this person can either uphold or reject the original decision. If the ARO upholds the decision they can appeal to the Social Security Appeals Tribunal and if this tribunal upholds it, their final course of action is to take it to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Once this process is completed, if the decision is upheld their non-payment period would then commence.

I hope this provides a satisfactory answer to the question but would be happy to provide further information if needed.

**Jac Taylor**  
**Executive Officer**  
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