

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 39

Topic: Paid Parental Leave – Commonwealth Public Servants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boswell asked:

For the period 2011-2012:

1. How many beneficiaries are expected to receive paid parental leave under the new government-funded paid parental leave scheme under the Paid Parental Leave Act 2010 (referred to herein as "18 week PPL")?
2. How many of those beneficiaries are expected to be Commonwealth public servants?
3. Excluding scheme administration costs, what is the anticipated cost of 18 week PPL payments to be paid to all beneficiaries?
4. Excluding scheme administration costs, what is the anticipated cost of 18 week PPL payments to be paid to beneficiaries who are Commonwealth public servants?
5. How many Commonwealth public servants who will receive 18 week PPL payments will also receive additional government-funded parental leave payments under existing awards, employment contracts or otherwise?
6. What is the anticipated total cost (including a separate figure for administration costs) of government-funded parental leave payments, other than under the 18 week PPL scheme, to be paid to Commonwealth public servants?
7. On average, how many weeks parental leave pay and superannuation would be funded by the government in addition to the 18 week PPL and at what rate of pay?

Answer:

1. It is estimated that around 126,000 families will receive Paid Parental Leave in any year.
2. It is not possible to accurately estimate the number of APS employees who will make a claim under the Paid Parental Leave scheme.
3. The estimated gross cost of Paid Parental Leave payments in 2011-12 is \$1,344,979,000 [Source: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio Budget Statements 2011-12, Budget Related Paper No. 1.7, page 54].
4. The anticipated cost is not known. Please refer to the response to Question 2 above.
5. The number of APS employees who will receive 18 weeks of Parental Leave Pay is unknown. Please refer to the response to Question 2 above.
6. The entitlements of APS employees are determined by reference to agency enterprise agreements bargained in accordance with the Australian Public Service Bargaining Framework (January 2011) (APSBF).

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As employee entitlements are managed by agencies in response to an employee's individual circumstances (ie classification level, duration of paid and unpaid leave, access to personal and other leave) it is not possible to accurately determine the nature of the Commonwealth liability for paid parental leave under all existing APS enterprise agreements.

7. Please refer to the response to Question 6 above.