

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Social Services Portfolio**  
**2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 1**

**Question No: 420**

**Topic: Apply the One-Week ordinary waiting period to all working age payments**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Brown** asked:

How many new applicants for Parenting Payment were there in the last financial year?

a. Under what circumstances might new applicants for Parenting payment be found to be exempt or have the OWP waived?

**Answer:**

In the financial year 2012-13, there were 112,638 new recipients of Parenting Payment. Note: new recipients include people who have transferred to Parenting Payment from another payment type, have not been on income support recently or are new to income support.

Subject to the passage of legislation, claimants granted Parenting Payment will not have to serve an Ordinary Waiting Period if they:

- received an income support payment at some time in the 13 weeks immediately prior to their start date for Parenting Payment; or
- are undertaking an activity specified by the Secretary by legislative instrument; or
- are experiencing a personal financial crisis.

This is set out in Schedule 6 of the Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No. 1) Bill 2014, available at [www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2014B00126](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2014B00126).