

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

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 970

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

Is the Department familiar with the Grattan Institute's 2012 report into economic game changers, which found that an extra 6 per cent of women in the workforce would lead to an extra \$25 billion in GDP?

- a) Has the department conducted any similar research? If so, what were the findings?
- b) Will the department be considering the PPL alongside child care issues when guiding policy?

Answer:

Yes.

- a) The Department's Paid Parental Leave scheme evaluation, currently nearing finalisation, examines the patterns for mothers' workforce participation and return to work after taking parental leave.
- b) The Department considers a wide range of issues when developing policy, and notes that child care is the responsibility of the Department of Education.