

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Early Childhood and Child Care

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000160

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Also refer to previous hearing Question No. SQ15-000923

Activity test - maternity leave

Question

Will maternity leave will meet the requirements of the activity test? What period will be permissible? How many hours per week of activity will maternity leave be counted as? How will it be linked to the hours per week worked before the start of maternity leave?

Answer

Parents on paid and unpaid parental leave who are returning to work would be considered to be employed and meet the childcare subsidy activity test.

The permissible period will be the length of the paid or unpaid parental leave agreed between the parent and their employer. The number of subsidised hours of child care per fortnight the individual is entitled to during parental leave will be linked to their hours of work before their leave.