

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations

DEEWR Question No.EW0216_11

Senator Fisher asked on 31/05/2010, Hansard page 124.

PAID PARENTAL LEAVE SCHEME

Question

PROFESSOR ANDREW STEWART'S EVIDENCE

Senator FISHER—I presume that the department is familiar with Professor Andrew Stewart's evidence. He said: There will be a number of employees who are entitled to parental leave pay— under the Paid Parental Leave Bill— but who do not have an existing entitlement to parental leave. Mr Bohn has just explained that that would be an employee who has done less than 12 months service for an employer. You have given an example of the sorts of employees to whom Professor Stewart was referring. Does the department know how many employees there would be at any one point in time in that overlapping category who would be entitled to payments under the Paid Parental Leave Bill, were it to be law, but are not entitled to unpaid leave under the fair work legislation? Mr Kovacic—We would have to take that on notice. Senator FISHER—Has the government sought your advice as to how many workers might be in that category? Mr Kovacic—I am not aware, but I can take that on notice. Senator FISHER—So you do not know whether the government has or has not? Mr Kovacic—I said I am not aware of it, but I will take it on notice. Senator FISHER—Have they asked for that advice—for example, following the committee's inquiry into the bill? Would you know about it? Mr Kovacic—I am not aware that we would have the numbers, but I have taken the question on notice and we will do our best to answer it. Senator FISHER—Had the government asked for advice as to the numbers would you know about it? Ms Paul—I think Mr Kovacic has answered the question. Senator FISHER—He said he is not aware of it. Ms Paul—That is right, and that he is going to take it on notice for you. I do not think we can go any further. Mr Kovacic—That is right

Answer

Modelling by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs estimates that 125 981 parents will access the Paid Parental Leave scheme each year. That modelling also estimates that 99 487 (79 per cent) of these parents will have completed 12 months service with their employer.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations has not been asked to provide any additional advice to the Government on this matter.