

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING  
2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2006**

**EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Outcome 3: Increased workforce participation**

**Output Group 3.1: Working Age Policy**

**Output 3.1.1: Working Age Policy and legislation**

**Question Number: W1007-07**

**Question:**

Senator Wong asked in writing: Does DEWR collect information on the distribution of care between separating/separated parents for the purposes of determining which parent is the 'principal carer' under the Social Security Act? If so, can DEWR indicate how many parents who share care equally are receiving income support? Please break down figures according to whether the person on income support (a) Has been assessed as the principal carer? (b) Has not been assessed as the principal carer?

**Answer:**

The following table shows the principal carer/non principal carer breakdown of people in receipt of relevant income support payments as at 17 November 2006 who were sharing care of at least one child with another person

**People Who Share Care<sup>1</sup> by Payment Type and principal Carer Status**

	Principal Carer	Not Principal Carer
Newstart Allowance	91	548
Parenting Payment Single	6512	N/A
Parenting Payment Partnered	346	N/A
Youth Allowance (job seeker)	0	22

<sup>1</sup> Share care refers to care between 45 and 55 percent of the time.