

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

**2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
2ND 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: W992-07

Question:

Senator Siewert asked at *Hansard* page 101: What evidence does Centrelink require when assessing eligibility as a principal carer?

Answer:

A person is a principal carer of a child if:

- the child is a dependent child of the person, AND
- the child has not turned 16.

Subsection 5(18) of the *Social Security Act 1991* specifies that only one person at a time can be the principal carer of a particular child. In all shared care situations, it is necessary to determine which of the carers is the principal carer.

A young person is a dependent child of an adult if:

- the adult has legal responsibility, either alone or jointly with another person, for the day-to-day care, welfare and development of the young person AND the young person is in the adult's care, OR
- the young person is not a dependent child of someone else under the previous point AND the young person is wholly or substantially in the adult's care.