

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman
Outcome/Program: 1
Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Senator: Ryan
Question reference number: 74
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer:

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- (1) Please list how many staff in each department and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?
- (2) For this financial year to date list which department/agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff and their classification are in receipt of these payments.
- (3) What is the paid parental scheme offered by each department and agency? How many staff have used the scheme this financial year to date

Answer:

- (1) All employees with more than 12 months service who earn less than \$150,000 per annum and are the primary care giver of the child are eligible to receive payment under the government's Paid Parental Leave Scheme. As eligibility is based on primary caring responsibility, the number of eligible staff cannot be identified.
- (2) Five employees were determined by Centrelink as eligible to receive the Government's Paid Parental leave, and were paid payments from 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013. 1 x EL1, 3 x APS6, 1 x APS4.
- (3) The Office offers the following paid parental leave under the *Maternity Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act 1973* (the Act) and the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman Enterprise Agreement 2011-2014 (the EA):

Paid Maternity Leave
12 weeks under the Act
2 weeks under the EA

Paid Parental Support Leave

2 weeks under the EA

Paid Adoption or Foster Parents Leave

14 weeks under the EA

11 staff have used paid maternity leave from 1 July 2012 to 22 February 2013.

Nobody accessed Paid Parental Support Leave.

Nobody accessed Paid Adoption or Foster Parents Leave.