

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 27-28 May 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of National Assessments

Outcome/Program: 1

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 101

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 July 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Please list how many staff in each department and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?

ONA Response:

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.

Question:

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.

ONA Response:

2 x EL1 ONA employees have claimed the payment this financial year up to 30 April 2013.

Question:

What is the paid parental scheme offered by each department and agency? How many staff have used the scheme this financial year to date.

ONA Response:

In addition to the minimum twelve (12) weeks paid maternity leave offered to eligible staff under the *Maternity Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act 1976*, the Office of National Assessments grants two weeks paid maternity leave to be taken immediately following the initial maternity leave period. Three ONA staff members have accessed additional maternity leave this financial year up to 31 May 2013. An employee who is a primary care-giver of a newly adopted or fostered child may take up to 14 weeks paid leave under the *Office of National Assessments Enterprise Agreement 2011-2014*. Where an employee is not eligible for paid maternity leave or adoption leave, they may access up to two (2) weeks paid parental leave to be taken within twelve months of the birth of their child. Two ONA staff members have accessed paid parental leave this financial year up to 31 May 2013.