

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 21 OCTOBER 2008**

**Human Services Portfolio**



**Department/Agency:** Centrelink  
**Outcome/Output Group:** Outcome 1/Output 1.1  
**Topic:** Maternity Immunisation Allowance

**Senator:** Bernardi  
**Question reference number:** HS11  
**Type of question:** Hansard F&PA 133  
**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 5 December 2008

**Question:**

**HS11: Senator BERNARDI**—Just in regard to the immunisation allowance, too, my understanding is that the immunisation allowance is also paid for stillbirths and terminations after a certain period, in line with the baby bonus. Can someone confirm that to me? I will go to the expert, Ms Thomas.

**Ms Thomas**—Essentially, maternity immunisation allowance is paid in two instalments. It is paid at 18 to 24 months, after the immunisation has been done, and it is also paid between four and five years, once the immunisation has been done for that schedule as well.

**Senator BERNARDI**—So there is no payment received in the event of stillbirth?

**Ms Thomas**—I am not aware that there is, but we may need to take that one on notice.

**Senator BERNARDI**—Thank you. If you could undertake to get that back to us, I would appreciate it.

**Answer:**

**HS11:** Section 39(3) of *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999* states that, an individual is eligible for Maternity Immunisation Allowance in respect of a child that is a stillborn child if the individual is entitled to Baby Bonus in respect of the child. The definition of stillborn child is the same as that used for the payment of Baby Bonus.

Please note that the Secretary of the Department of Human Services wrote to the Committee Secretary on 6 November 2008 to clarify that Maternity Immunisation Allowance will be paid in two instalments from January 2009.

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