

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - 16 FEBRUARY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Payments – Residency Requirements

Question reference number: HS 18

Senator: Fifield

Type of question: Hansard page 111

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 29 March 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator FIFIELD: We established that these particular benefits are not subject to the two-year residency requirement, so what is the residency or visa requirement that you need to have in order to get these benefits, assuming you meet all the usual criteria for eligibility?

Mr Salvage: Which payments were they?

Senator FIFIELD: The family tax benefit, baby bonus, paid parental leave.

Mr Salvage: Family tax benefit is not covered by the residency waiting period. The other one?

Senator FIFIELD: Baby bonus.

Mr Campisi: I have not got that with me.

Answer:

To qualify for Family Tax Benefit, Baby Bonus or Paid Parental Leave a customer must reside in Australia and hold one of the following visas:

- a permanent resident visa,
- a protected special category visa,
- a specified temporary visa, or
- a specified special category visa.

There are many types of permanent resident visas, including refugee visas, family related visas, business visas and retirement visas.

New Zealand citizens, who were in Australia on or before 26 February 2001, are generally classified as protected special category visa holders.

Specified temporary visas and special category visa types include:

- “Partner Provisional” visas, which are temporary visas that allow a person to remain in Australia, provided they remain partnered to the Australian citizen or resident who sponsored their entry to Australia. They consist of visa subclasses 309, 310, 820 and 826.

- “Temporary Humanitarian” visas, which are held by certain customers arriving under humanitarian grounds (refugees) who were granted temporary visas rather than permanent visas. The temporary humanitarian visas consist of subclasses 447, 451, 785, 786, 695, and 070.
- “Witness Protection” (subclass 787) or a “Criminal Justice Stay” (subclass ZB 951) visas, which are issued for the purpose of assisting in the administration of criminal justice in relation to the offence of people trafficking, sexual servitude or deceptive recruiting.
- “Special Category” visas, which are automatically issued to customers who arrive in Australia on a New Zealand passport.

To qualify for Family Tax Benefit, Baby Bonus and Paid Parental Leave a customer must have at least one dependent child who satisfies residence qualifications. To qualify, a child must either be an Australian resident, a special category visa holder or living with the customer.

There is no newly arrived resident’s waiting period for Family Tax Benefit, Baby Bonus or Paid Parental Leave.