

## Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

### ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 24 FEBRUARY 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Paid Parental Leave

**Question reference number:** HS 1

**Senator:** Fifield

**Type of question:** Hansard CA page 79

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 8 April 2011

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

**Senator FIFIELD** - Could you advise what the total cost is to the Commonwealth of those arrangements in the financial year to date and the previous financial year?

**Ms Godwin** - Do you mean of people taking their leave entitlements under the paid parental leave arrangements?

**Senator FIFIELD** - Yes, under the—

**Ms Godwin** - Their maternity leave or other sorts of—

**Senator FIFIELD** - Yes, that is right - that predated the Paid Parental Leave scheme.

**Ms Godwin** - Yes. Sorry; I should not use that phrase. I meant 'taking maternity and other leave'. I would have to take that on notice.

**Senator FIFIELD** - If you could, yes - just how you quantify that and how you cost that; thank you.

#### **Answer:**

The maternity leave expenses outlined below are quantified and costed utilising employee Human Resources data and actual salaries information extracted from the relevant departmental Human Resources systems for the three financial years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (to 16 March 2011). The figures are based on the numbers of staff that utilised leave, the leave entitlement taken (for example 14 weeks) and the employee's actual salary provisions. The figures below represent actual cost to the Commonwealth by financial year.

This response corrects the advice provided during the hearing by Mr Gary Dunn (Hansard page CA 92).

#### **2008-09 Maternity Leave Expenses**

##### Medicare

243 employees were in receipt of maternity leave arrangements in 2008-09 at an actual cost of \$1,994,502.23 to the Commonwealth.

Centrelink

1,553 employees were in receipt of maternity leave arrangements in 2008-09 at an actual cost of \$11,350,287.76 to the Commonwealth.

Department of Human Services

269 employees were in receipt of maternity leave arrangements in 2008-09 at an actual cost of \$1,872,656.29 to the Commonwealth.

**2009-10 Maternity Leave Expenses**

Medicare

272 employees were in receipt of maternity leave arrangements in 2009-10 at an actual cost of \$2,646,148.52 to the Commonwealth.

Centrelink

1,559 employees were in receipt of maternity leave arrangements in 2009-10 at an actual cost of \$12,878,092.52 to the Commonwealth.

Department of Human Services

316 employees were in receipt of maternity leave arrangements in 2009-10 at an actual cost of \$2,143,702.64 to the Commonwealth.

**2010-11 Maternity Leave Expenses**

Medicare

220 employees have been in receipt of maternity leave arrangements in 2010-11 (to 16 March 2011) at an actual cost of \$1,949,228.00 to the Commonwealth.

Centrelink

1,285 employees have been in receipt of maternity leave arrangements in 2010-11 (to 16 March 2011) at an actual cost of \$9,329,252.53 to the Commonwealth.

Department of Human Services

317 employees have been in receipt of maternity leave arrangements in 2010-11 (to 16 March 2011) at an actual cost of \$1,859,234.46 to the Commonwealth.