

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 12

Senator: Fifield

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Question:

Senator FIFIELD - Can you apportion the cost for that part of it which is required for the paymaster role, as opposed to the ongoing—

Mr Salvage - Not at this point. It would be difficult. When we built this scheme, it was a bit of a job lot. We took the opportunity to combine our current processing for family tax benefit, maternity immunisation allowance and baby bonus with the PPL aspects of the claim process, which then also asked the question about the person's employer, if required, and work test questions. We also took the opportunity to build up our third party, or our business related, portal and the methods by which we move with those businesses. We found ourselves building capability not just for PPL but also for the broader. It would be difficult to specifically identify that, but we can always give that a go.

Mr Sandison - From the IT capability side and being able to split that out, we do not have those figures because it was, as we have said, an integrated build. Looking at the linkages and PPL by itself, there were a whole series of areas that were linked together, let alone looking at how it would link to other elements. The teams that worked on them were right across a number of our IT divisions, so we do not have separated costings for those for the employer related component by itself.

Senator FIFIELD - To the extent that you are going to have a stab, and it is reasonable to do so, could you take that on notice - and, obviously, to the extent you cannot, you cannot.

Mr Sandison - Certainly.....

Answer:

Centrelink cannot separately identify the cost of the employer role in the claim and payment processes.