

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 13

Senator: Adams

Type of question: Hansard CA page 93

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Question:

- a) **Senator ADAMS** - If a recipient is living overseas, can employers pay the entitlement into an overseas bank account?

Mr Salvage - I do not know the technical answer to that question. We might have to take that one on notice.

- b) **Senator ADAMS** - If this is so, what arrangements are in place to protect employers from action taken against them by the government if there is a delay in recipients receiving payments made through overseas banking institutions? Could you take that on notice too.

Mr Sandison - Yes.

- c) **Senator ADAMS** - Do you have a list of the small business organisations that were consulted, or would that be FaHCSIA?

Mr Salvage - FaHCSIA would have a more complete list. We have had a fair amount of dealings with COSBOA, the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia, and also the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Again, we have had a fair amount of discussion with them about their members' needs and how we might best promulgate them, and we have sought suggestions from them on how best to ensure that their members know where to go to get the information. We see peak bodies as being very important in terms of their being able to supply their members with that information. FaHCSIA may have a fuller listing of some of the organisations they consulted before the legislation was actually framed. It was a bit of a tag team effort there.

Senator ADAMS - Can you take on notice to give me that list?

Mr Sandison - The list of who we engaged on the design of the service delivery?

Senator ADAMS - Yes, and I will also ask FaHCSIA for theirs.

Mr Salvage - Yes, we can.

Answer:

- a) Family Assistance Office payments, including Parental Leave Pay, can only be deposited into an Australian bank account. However, there are no restrictions on employers paying Parental Leave Pay into an employee's overseas bank account if such an arrangement exists.

- b) In all cases where an employee advises Centrelink of a delay in receiving Parental Leave Pay from their employer, Centrelink will first work with the employee and their employer to establish the facts of the case. Where it is established that the delays are caused by factors outside of the employer's control, no penalties would be imposed upon the employer.
- c) A list of organisations that represent the interests of small business that were consulted by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs since July 2009 is provided below.

ACT & Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Live Performance Australia
Air Conditioning Mechanical Contractors Association	Master Builders Australia
Association of Taxation and Management Accountants	Master Painters Association
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Master Plumbers & Mechanical Services Association of Australia
Australian Direct Marketing Association	National Farmers Federation
Australian Federation of Employers and Industries	National Independent Retailers Association
Australian Hotels Association	National Institute of Accountants
Australian Industry Group	National Retail Association
Australian National Retailers Association	National Tax and Accountants Association
Australian Newsagents' Federation	New South Wales Business Chamber
Australian Retailers Association	Pharmacy Guild of Australia
Australian Trucking Association	Printing Industries Association of Australia
BEC Australia	Real Estate Institute of Australia
Business and Professional Women Australia	Restaurant & Catering Australia
Business SA	Retail Confect & Mixed Business Association
Chamber of Commerce and Industry Western Australia	State Retailers Association S.A
Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory	Tasmanian Small Business Council
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants	Taxation Institute of Australia
CPA Australia	The Association of Payroll Specialists
Council of Small Business of Australia	Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce
Furnishers' Society & others (Victoria)	Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Independent Contractors of Australia	
Independent Retailers' Organisation (WA)	
Institute of Chartered Accountants	