

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 44

Topic: Baby Bonus

Hansard Page: 29/05/2012 - CA28-29

Senator Bernardi asked:

Are there any instances of where the baby bonus instalments are being transferred to another party? If a child is removed from the mother for reasons of care, are the subsequent baby bonus payments redirected to the primary caregiver?

Answer:

Yes.

An eligible parent can receive the fortnightly Baby Bonus payments while they have primary care of their babies or adopted children. Where there is a change in primary care, such as when a child is removed from the care of the mother by a child protection agency, the Department of Human Services must be notified. If care of the child changes in the first 26 weeks and the new carer is expected to have the child for at least 26 weeks, the new carer can claim Baby Bonus and the payment stops to the mother. In these cases, Baby Bonus would be split between the birth mother and the new carer. The amount of Baby Bonus payable would be based on the period of time each person was the child's primary carer within the 26 weeks following the birth.