

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.2 Paid Parental Leave

Question No: SQ15-000510

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Hansard page: Written

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah asked:

Is the Department aware of improved rates of breastfeeding and the associated health benefits for mother and babies under the current PPL system? Has the government estimated how the proposed scheme will alter these health benefits for mothers and babies? Would you agree that breastfeeding rates and duration are likely to fall as a result of this policy?

Answer:

The Paid Parental Leave (PPL) Phase 4 evaluation report, released December 2014, concluded that among all PPL mothers there had been a small increase in the proportion of mothers who continue breastfeeding at all time-points after about six months after a birth.

As outlined in Figure 3.3 attached (PPL Phase 4 evaluation report, p. 64), this effect was concentrated among fixed term and self employed mothers, those not affected by the 2015 Budget measure.