

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: SQ15-000737

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Hansard page: CA15, 4 June 2015

Senator Reynolds, Linda asked:

It would be great if you would take on notice whether the Department has any other information beyond that in The Economist and also that breaks it down by government and private sector. Additionally, does the Department have any trend data on the proportion of women who have access to an employer-funded scheme?

Answer:

Around 47 per cent of Paid Parental Leave (PPL)-eligible mothers (around 79,000) are estimated to have access to employer-provided paid maternity leave.

- Around 20 per cent (or 34,000) have access to employer-provided paid maternity leave valued greater than the full PPL entitlement of \$11,539 (18 weeks at national minimum wage). Around 61 per cent work in the public sector and 39 per cent work in the private sector, and their median income is around \$73,011 per year.
- Around 27 per cent (or 45,000) have access to employer-provided paid maternity leave valued less than the full PPL entitlement of \$11,539 (18 weeks at national minimum wage). Around 38 per cent work in the public sector and 62 per cent work in the private sector, and their median income is around \$43,000 per year.

The Department does not collect trend data on the number of female employees who have access to or have accessed employer-provided schemes. The Department of Employment can provide data on the number of female employees covered by federal enterprise agreements containing an employer provided parental leave scheme, however, there is no data on how many of these female employees are eligible for the scheme. Additionally, the Department of Employment does not have data on the number of female employees who are eligible for employer provided parental leave schemes under alternative arrangements such as company policies and individual contracts.