

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES - 20 OCTOBER 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Family Assistance Office – Paid Parental Leave

Question reference number: HSW 58

Senator: Adams

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 December 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) Why does the Family Assistance Office still exist?
- b) How many calls has the office had since the 1st of July regarding Paid Parental Leave?
- c) How many business employees are currently on the Paid Parental Leave Scheme?
- d) How many businesses are having problems with administering the scheme?

Answer:

- a) The Family Assistance Office provides Australian families with better access to government services. Instead of going to different agencies to get family assistance, families are able to get all payments from just one place - the Family Assistance Office.
- b) 45,365 (as at 31 October 2011).
- c) 5,428 employers providing Parental Leave Pay to 10,318 eligible employees (as at 31 October 2011).
- d) Employer feedback for the scheme to date has been very positive. Most contacts with employers have been in relation to simple enquires about the scheme, as well as seeking assistance with registration or with ongoing payment delivery to employees.