

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 117

Topic: Workforce Participation and Carer Payment Recipients

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Please provide the links to any research and outline policies and programs that are aimed at supporting carers in the workforce.

Answer:

Research

There are a number of research papers that are aimed at supporting carers in the workforce:

1. <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4102.0Main+Features30Sep+2009>
2. <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/fm2005/fm70/mg.pdf>
3. <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=6442468304>
4. <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/resreport16/chapter11.html>
5. <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/fm2008/fm80/he.pdf>
6. http://www.tocc.org.au/media/Final_TOCC_2007_Report_The_Hidden_Face_of_Care_16_Nov_2007.pdf
7. <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fchy/carers/report.htm#chapters>
8. <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=34850315&site=ehost-live>
9. <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=sih&AN=13876736&site=ehost-live>
10. <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=eoah&AN=24258766&site=ehost-live>

Policies and Programs

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

DEEWR is primarily responsible for administering policies and programs that support carers in the workplace.

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)
Policy Role

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has lead responsibility for the development and implementation of the National Carer Strategy (the Strategy).

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The Strategy is the Government's long term commitment to carers, and includes improvements so that carers have more options to participate in the workforce, including:

- fairer access to the Carer Supplement
- an extension of the Department of Health and Ageing's demonstration Day Respite Pilot
- consulting with stakeholders about expanding the right to request flexible working arrangements under the *Fair Work Act 2009* to employees caring for older Australians and those caring for a person with a serious long-term illness or disability.

FaHCSIA is also responsible for overseeing the *Carer Recognition Act 2010* (the Act). The Act, which came into effect on 18 November 2010, recognises that carers should be supported to achieve greater economic wellbeing and sustainability and, where appropriate, should have opportunities to participate in paid employment. Australian Public Service agencies must take all practical measures to ensure that its employees and agents have awareness and understanding of the Act's Statement for Australia's Carers and have an obligation to consider the needs of employees with caring responsibilities in their human resource policies. From 2011-12 all Australian Public Service agencies that develop and deliver care supports will be required to report on their compliance with the Act in annual reports.

FaHCSIA Program Role

FaHCSIA administers the Outside School Hours Care for Teenagers with Disability initiative which provides students with disability, aged 12 to 18 years, with quality outside school hours care. Outside schools hours care includes before school, after school and holiday care. This program gives carers more time to work or participate in the community.