

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Early Childhood and Child Care

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000006

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah asked on 01 March 2017, Proof Hansard page 95

Exemptions from the activity test

Question

Ms Mitchell: Unless that parent who is not working is exempt for some reason. They might have an exemption because they might be on a disability support payment. They might be a carer, for example, and so in that case the family would actually meet the activity test based on the exemption.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Can we have a list of what those exemptions are?

Ms Mitchell: Yes.

Ms Wilson: And we have consulted on them.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is that public?

Ms Wilson: Not at this stage, but we can probably give you an indicative list on notice.

Answer

There will be exemptions to the Child Care Subsidy activity test for parents who legitimately cannot meet the activity requirements. These will be specified in the primary legislation or a Minister's rule.

The current list of proposed exemptions to the Child Care Subsidy activity test includes circumstances where the:

- individual is in receipt of a Disability Support Pension under the *Social Security Act 1991*
- individual is outside Australia
- individual is in gaol or undergoing psychiatric confinement
- individual, or the individual's partner, is the grandparent (or the great grandparent) and is the principal carer of the child
- child is identified as being eligible for the Additional Child Care Subsidy (child wellbeing) payment
- individual is in receipt of Carer Payment under the *Social Security Act 1991*
- individual is personally providing constant care for an adult or child with a severe/intense disability or medical condition or an adult who is frail aged, and is not in receipt of Carer Payment
- child is attending a preschool program in a centre-based day care service
- individual, their partner or the child is affected by exceptional circumstances (as determined by the Secretary).

The proposed list of exemptions represents the Department of Education and Training's current thinking following consultation and is subject to approval by the Minister for Education and Training.