

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

Budget Estimates Hearings 2004-2005, 24 and 25 May 2004

**Question: PM 22**

**Outcome 1, Output 2.2.**

**Topic: Maternity Payment**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 16:**

**Senator Crossin asked: “[Would the \$3,000 Maternity payment be] Available to anybody, or available to the primary carer? .... My understanding ... is that it is to be paid to the primary carer, who may or may not be the mother.”**

**Answer:**

The Department of Family and Community Services has advised that the Maternity Payment is not limited to primary carers.

The Maternity Payment can be paid to biological parents (including those of stillborn children), as well as adoptive parents and those entrusted with the care of a newborn child for no less than 13 weeks.

Recipients of the Maternity Payment must also meet the eligibility requirements for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB). However, because the Maternity Payment is not means tested, the income test for FTB will not apply.