



Budget 2020-21

This information is accurate as at 7 October 2020.

JobMaker Plan – Second Women's Economic Security Package

Concessional Work Test for Paid Parental Leave in response to the impacts of COVID-19

This measure enables families who've had their employment impacted by Coronavirus (COVID-19) to qualify for government funded Paid Parental Leave (PPL). This includes Parental Leave Pay (PLP) and Dad and Partner Pay (DAP).

This measure temporarily changes the work test for customers who:

- don't meet the current work test because their employment has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic
- have a child born or adopted between 22 March 2020 and 31 March 2021.

For PLP, the work test period for these parents will be extended from 13 months to 20 months before either:

- the birth or adoption of their child
- the start of their DAP period (for customers claiming DAP).

This means work undertaken by the parent before COVID-19 can be counted towards the work test.

In the extended 20 month work test period, these parents will need to meet the work test requirements of:

- 330 hours in a 10 month period
- no more than a 12 week break between work days.

The measure also lets eligible parents request a start date for their PLP that's in the past.

PLP customers who returned to work before the end of their PPL period will lose the balance of their PPL period. This is in line with the current rules. They can transfer their remaining entitlement to a secondary claimant, if eligible, under current rules.

This change is subject to the passage of legislation.

Who does this measure affect?

This affects customers claiming Parental Leave Pay (PLP) or Dad and Partner Pay (DAP) who:

- don't meet the current work test

- had their employment affected by COVID-19
- have a child born or adopted between 22 March 2020 and 31 March 2021.

If a PLP or DAP claim was rejected from 22 March 2020 due to not meeting the work test, we'll contact affected parents to invite them to test their eligibility under the revised rules.

When will this start and finish?

This measure will be available for customers whose child is born or adopted between 22 March 2020 and 31 March 2021.

Women's Economic Security Statement – ParentsNext policy changes

The measure introduces changes to the ParentsNext program to better support parents to plan and prepare for employment by the time their youngest child reaches school age.

ParentsNext currently operates via 2 streams:

- Intensive stream – provides services in 30 locations where a higher proportion of Parenting Payment customers identify as Indigenous
- Targeted stream – delivered to eligible parents in remaining non-remote locations.

From 1 July 2021, the ParentsNext program will be streamlined into 1 service. This will ensure the eligibility criteria for the program and services delivered by providers are consistent, regardless of where a participant lives. Further changes include:

- allowing any Parenting Payment customer with a child under 6 to volunteer to join the program
- allowing all participants access to the Participation Fund to help them achieve their education and employment goals
- extending education and employment outcome payments to all providers
- extending access to relocation assistance and wage subsidies to all participants.

This change is not subject to the passage of legislation.

Who does this measure affect?

From 1 July 2021, parents that live in a jobactive employment region will be eligible for referral if they:

- have been getting Parenting Payment (partnered or single) continuously and not engaged in work in the last 6 months
- have a youngest child who is at least 9 months and under 6 years of age
- are under 56 years of age and are either:

- under 22 years of age and haven't completed the final year of school or equivalent level of education
- 22 years of age or over, haven't completed the final year of school or equivalent level of education, and have been getting income support continuously for more than 2 years
- have completed their final year of school and have been getting income support continuously for more than 4 years.

Parents who are already studying or are on extended leave with a job to return to will be exempt from the program. This recognises that some parents are already preparing to enter or return to the workforce.

When will this start and finish?

This starts from 1 July 2021 and is ongoing.