

House of Representatives

Supplementary Order Paper

Thursday, 30 May 2019

Social Assistance Legislation (Budget 2019 Welfare Package) Amendment Bill

Proposed amendment

Simon O'Connor, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

New clause 6A

After *clause 6* (page 3, after line 24), insert:

6A New section 194A inserted (Review of number of non-declared parents)

Before section 195, insert:

194A Review of number of non-declared parents

- (1) MSD must record and track the number of people that—
 - (a) apply for sole parent support; and
 - (b) fail to identify who is in law the other parent of the child.
- (2) MSD must undertake a review of the policy and the financial implications of the removal of benefit reductions on sole parents who do not identify the other parent of the child, if the number of people recorded in **subsection (1)** is over—
 - (a) 500 parents in a single quarter; or
 - (b) 1,500 parents in a calendar year.
- (3) The review under **subsection (2)** must—
 - (a) be initiated immediately once either of the requirements in **subsection (2)(a) or (b)** has been met; and
 - (b) be completed within 60 days of the day it was initiated.

- (4) The review under **subsection (2)** must be tabled in Parliament within 1 month of the completion of the review.

Explanatory note

This Supplementary Order Paper inserts *new clause 6A* into the Social Assistance Legislation (Budget 2019 Welfare Package) Amendment Bill. This amendment is to provide sufficient overview of the changes to those seeking the sole parent benefit without identifying the other parent. Not declaring who the other parent is, and consequently removing their obligation to provide for their child, should be an exception. This amendment seeks to evaluate whether the changes made in this Bill mean that failure to declare who the other parent is remains exceptional or is becoming the norm.