

COMMISSIONER'S BULLETIN 2/2011

The Commonwealth Paid Parental Leave Scheme

The Commonwealth Government passed legislation in 2010 to deliver a paid parental leave scheme (PPL Scheme) which commenced on 1 January 2011.

Key features of the PPL Scheme - The PPL Scheme payment:

- is Commonwealth Government funded
- is for eligible working parents
- can be transferred to the other parent
- is based on the National Minimum Wage (\$589.40 a week before tax);
- is for up to 18 weeks, and
- can be taken any time within the first year after birth or adoption; and
- is in addition to any entitlement received under a NTPS enterprise agreement and can be received before, after or at the same time as these entitlements.

Administration of PPL payments from 1 July 2011 - From 1 July 2011 onwards, the NT Government will process PPL Scheme payments for employees through the NTPS payroll. The process involves:

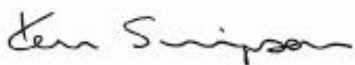
- Employees make a claim directly to the Commonwealth's Family Assistance Office (FAO) using Online Services or by submitting a paper claim (claims can be lodged up to three months before the expected date of birth or adoption of your child);
- Commonwealth's FAO will check employees' eligibility for payments and decide whether payments will be provided by NT Government or the Commonwealth's FAO; and
- The NT Government upon receiving funds from Commonwealth's FAO is required to process the PPL Scheme payment to eligible employees through the fortnightly payroll process.

The PPL Scheme payment is taxable and will appear on employees' pay statements. The PPL Scheme payment is a Commonwealth Government initiative and not an employment entitlement.

PPL Scheme payments will not be payable or will cease immediately if an employee returns to work anytime from the date of birth or adoption through to the end of the 18 week period the PPL Payment is being paid.

If you have any queries about the PPL Scheme or wish to make a claim, you can telephone the Cth FAO on 136150 (between 8.00am to 8.00pm, Monday to Friday) or visit the following web-page:

<http://www.familyassist.gov.au/payments/family-assistance-payments/paid-parental-leave-scheme/>



KEN SIMPSON
Commissioner for Public Employment
28 June 2011