

Baby Bonus and Paid Parental Leave

Both the paid parental leave and baby bonus schemes are run through the Family Assistance Office, and generally you have to choose between the two (unless you are having twins in which case you can claim both).

The main differences between the two are as follow:

	Baby Bonus	Paid Parental Leave
Paid By	Family Assistance Office	Employer
Amount	\$5,437.01	\$10,609.20 (maximum)
Income Tested?	Yes – family adjusted taxable income below \$75,000 in six months after birth of child	Yes – primary carer’s adjusted taxable income below \$150,000 in the financial year prior to birth of child
Payment Period	Paid in 13 fortnightly amounts after claim processed by FAO	Paid for a maximum of 18 weeks
Taxable Income	No	Yes
Return to work	No restrictions on returning to work	Limited hours may be worked before weekly payments are stopped.

More information on baby bonus and paid parental leave can be found on the Family Assistance Office website at the following websites:

<http://www.familyassist.gov.au/payments/family-assistance-payments/baby-bonus/>

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

A calculator to help you work out which would leave you better off can also be found on the Family Assistance Office website:

http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/individuals/ppl_working_parents_estimator.htm