



Australian Social Work >

Volume 70, 2017 - [Issue 1](#)

1,985

Views

0

CrossRef citations to date

Altmetric

Articles

Young Mothers' Experiences of Receiving the Baby Bonus: A Qualitative Study

Cameryn C. Garrett, Louise Keogh , Belinda Hewitt, Danielle C. Newton & Anne M. Kavanagh

Pages 54-65 | Received 18 Jan 2015, Accepted 24 Sep 2015, Published online: 07 Mar 2016

 Cite this article

 <https://doi.org/10.1080/0312407X.2015.1128453>



Sample our
Health and Social Care
Journals



>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

 Full Article

 Figures & data

 References

 Citations

 Metrics

 Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

Share

ABSTRACT

The year 2014 marked the abolition of the Baby Bonus and its replacement with a substantially reduced parenting payment. While often criticised as “middle-class welfare,” or publicly denounced due to its purported misuse by disadvantaged mothers, this paper argues that the Baby Bonus provided valuable financial assistance to families experiencing high financial stress. To investigate young women's experience of receiving the Baby Bonus, 19 semistructured interviews were conducted with young mothers in Melbourne who had recently had babies. Many were experiencing financial stress and this payment provided much needed financial support for the basic costs arising from having a baby. Several mothers perceived work as a luxury that was out of reach due to high childcare costs relative to their earning capacity and therefore saw Paid Parental Leave as a further privilege unavailable to them. Our results suggest that while the concerns of policymakers to achieve the best use of scarce resources are

critical, it should also be acknowledged that the policy change may have serious implications for many young mothers and may exacerbate disadvantage, and young mothers' sense of alienation, ultimately leading to greater inequalities.

KEYWORDS:

- Mothers
- Finances
- Public Assistance
- Pregnancy
- Young Persons

Acknowledgements

We thank our partners, The Royal Women's Hospital and VicHealth.

Additional information

Funding

This work was supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council [grant number 1036085].

Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by

[Analysing the effectiveness of demand-side rental subsidies: the case of Australia's Commonwealth Rent Assistance scheme >](#)

Rachel Ong Viforj et al.
International Journal of Housing Policy
Published online: 3 Oct 2022

Information for

[Authors](#)

[R&D professionals](#)

[Editors](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Societies](#)

Opportunities

[Reprints and e-prints](#)

[Advertising solutions](#)

[Accelerated publication](#)

[Corporate access solutions](#)

Open access

[Overview](#)

[Open journals](#)

[Open Select](#)

[Dove Medical Press](#)

[F1000Research](#)

Help and information

[Help and contact](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[All journals](#)

[Books](#)

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email



Sign me up



Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited [Privacy policy](#)

[Cookies](#) [Terms & conditions](#) [Accessibility](#)

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG



Taylor & Francis
by informa