MATERNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – Q&A'S

Who is eligible for RWWA's Maternity Assistance Program (MAP)?

A full time licenced jockey or harness driver who meets the following requirements:

- ✓ An Australian citizen or permanent resident;
- ✓ A Western Australian resident who has been licenced as a jockey or harness driver (A or B Driver) by RWWA for a period of at least the two preceding years and have ridden/driven regularly in races in Western Australia during this time;
- ✓ Earns income solely from their work as a jockey or driver, with no alternate employment either within or outside of the racing industry; and
- ✓ Not be a holder of any other license with RWWA (e.g. trainer license or licensed in any of the other codes).

Please refer to RWWA's Maternity Assistance Program Policy for further details regarding eligibility.

Are jockeys and drivers eligible for the Federal Government's Parental Leave provisions?

Currently, jockeys and drivers are not eligible to access Federal Government's Parental Leave provisions unless they have a secondary source of income, due to the Rules of Racing's requirement to cease riding or driving from the start of the second trimester of pregnancy, meaning they do not meet the work test requirements.

However, from the 1 January 2020, changes will be made to legislation, which will accommodate situations where a pregnant person cannot continue in their normal occupation due to safety risks incompatible with pregnancy. This means in 2020, jockeys and drivers will become eligible for the Federal Government's Parental Leave provisions, from the time the child is born.

Are apprentice jockey's eligible for MAP?

Please note apprentice jockeys do not require MAP, as all apprentices in Western Australia are employed by RWWA, and therefore RWWA undertakes to find them alternate safe duties during the period they are unable to ride after the first trimester, paying them their weekly wage until they become eligible for the Federal Government's Parental Leave provisions.

When is financial support provided through MAP?

RWWA's MAP will bridge the gap between when a jockey or driver is required to cease riding or driving (end of the first trimester) until they are eligible for the Federal Government's Parental Leave provisions, which is available once the child is born.

Please note that the MAP is an industry payment and does not confer any employment relationship between the eligible person and RWWA. No superannuation is payable in relation to this payment and any associated taxation is the responsibility of the individual.

How long must you be working in the industry for, to be eligible for MAP?

The MAP is available to individuals who have been licenced as a jockey or harness driver (A or B Driver) by RWWA for a period of at least the two preceding years and have ridden/driven regularly in races in WA during this time.

MATERNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – Q&A'S (con't)

Is there a limit to how many times you can claim MAP or is there a waiting period between each pregnancy?

There is no limit to how many times you can claim, however when assessing the claim RWWA will need to be assured that the intent is to return to full-time race riding or driving post the birth of a second or subsequent child. In most cases there would be a requirement to resume race riding or driving full-time between applications.

When are pregnant jockeys and drivers required to cease riding or driving?

Under the Rules of Racing, jockeys and drivers are required to cease riding and driving in races after three months of pregnancy.

What financial assistance is provided through MAP?

Eligible persons will be provided with a maximum rate in line with the National Minimum Wage amount. If an eligible person's average weekly income from race driving or riding for the previous 12 months (excluding time lost through injury) is less than this then the weekly payment will be capped at this lower amount. If an eligible person commences receiving income from another source during the payment period, they will be required to declare this income to RWWA and their payment may be reduced accordingly.

Who do I contact for further information on MAP?

For more information regarding MAP, contact RWWA's Careers and Industry Training team:

P: 08 9445 5124

E: training@rwwa.com.au