

**Question 28**

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies correctly a group and is able to justify the unique characteristics</li> <li>Provides special characteristics to justify inclusion</li> </ul>	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides some relevant points of a suitable group</li> </ul>	3-5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides a point linking a characteristic to a unique entity</li> </ul>	1-2

*Answer may include:* Correctly identified group – aged, chronically ill, cultural, families in crisis, disabled, gay and lesbian, rural families, sole parents, socio economically disadvantaged, the homeless or youth. For example, sole parent:

- Special characteristics of the sole parent group include – people who raise children without a partner. It can be a temporary or permanent situation and may occur as a result of separation, divorce or through death of a spouse or partner or it may be out of choice.
- Many sole parents are young women without a permanent relationship or partner. Because of the baby bonus, parenting payment, family tax benefits and childcare rebate to decrease childcare costs and a change in societal attitudes, many are able to provide for their children. It is a challenging role as often there is only one source of income for the family (in a situation where the woman is separated or divorced from a partner and they are the custodial parent, there may be financial support through the Child Support Agency, which can direct payments from a former partner's wages to the custodial parent).
- The socio economic status of the sole parent can vary greatly. The amount of money, resources and opportunities an individual has, affects their ability to access a range of resources. The unemployed and working poor may have to rely on assistance from support services to provide for their essential needs (food, clothing and shelter). Those with more money have more choice in where they live, the food they eat and the clothes they wear, however are less likely to qualify for assistance from government agencies and support services.
- Sole parents need access to affordable and appropriate housing that is safe, well-maintained and close to facilities such as schools and medical services.
- Sole parents and their families need to feel safe and secure. They need to be able to live free from the threat of physical or verbal abuse or violence.
- Education on how to problem solve and manage their own situation is important. They need to be able to identify and access a range of resources (like childcare if the parent is working). They may need education that can assist them in dealing with an ex-partner or the introduction of a new partner.
- Sole parents need access to employment that has a flexible work pattern as they have parenting obligations and responsibilities (like caring for a sick child, attending school functions) as well as employee responsibilities.
- Sole parents need access to affordable quality medical care. They need access to services that recognise and address the unique needs of sole parent families when it comes to healthcare, e.g., if a sole parent becomes sick, who looks after them or their family?
- Self-esteem is important. The sole parent needs to feel acknowledged and accepted by the community. Many sole parents have low self-esteem as they struggle to give their children a basic standard of living and as a result may feel less personal worth. They may live in communities that view their situation negatively; this affects their self-esteem.
- Sense of identity – being a sole parent may mean they are stereotyped by society. As a result the sole parent may not want to access resources because they may feel embarrassed or feel intimidated. Conversely, the sole parent may be able to access services that may not otherwise be available thus improving an individual's quality of life and sense of identity.