

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into the Social Security Amendment (Income Support for Regional Students)  
Bill 2010**

**DEEWR Question No. SIH – W3**

Senator Nash asked in writing:

**Question**

How has the Department estimated the number of students expected to be recipients of Independent Youth Allowance in the inner regional areas if the Social Security Amendment (Income Support for Regional Students) Bill 2010 was passed?

**Answer**

The Department has estimated student numbers by following the costing methodology used for the student income support reform package as agreed with the Department of Finance and Deregulation. Population size is based on 26 June 2009 Centrelink Admin data.

Historical Centrelink data indicate that students who access independent Youth Allowance via the workforce participation criterion remain on Youth Allowance on average for a further two years.

- Students who have taken a gap year typically qualify for independent Youth Allowance in the middle of the first year of their course and will have around two and a half years to complete a three year degree or reach the age of independence which will be 22 years from January 2012.
- Students who do not take a gap year but work while they study to qualify for independent Youth Allowance typically qualify in the middle of the second year of their course. Most of these students will finish studying within 18 months.

The estimate also takes into account the population of students estimated to satisfy or not satisfy the current workforce participation criterion, who reside in Inner Regional areas, would need to move away from home to study and who have parental income less than \$150 000 pa.

Assuming that each of these cohorts of students remains on Youth Allowance for an average of two years, it is estimated that there would be a buildup of numbers over a two year period as follows:

Cohort	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
2011 YA (ind) qualifiers	5500	5500		
2012 YA (ind) qualifiers		5500	5500	
2013 YA (ind) qualifiers			5500	5500
2014 YA (ind) qualifiers				5500
Total	5500	11 000	11 000	11 000