

**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 – H6**

**Senator Nash asked on 17 December 2010, EEWR Hansard page 53.**

**Question**

Senator NASH – I go to the potential costs relating to the bill, which I think you have said are \$270 million cost to the budget over three years. Is that right? Ms Milliken – Yes. Senator NASH – And how many students? Ms Sykes – It is 5 ½ thousand in the first year and somewhere between 10 000 and 11 000 in subsequent years. Senator NASH – Is that 5 ½ thousand in 2011-12? Ms Sykes – Sorry, 2011-12. Senator NASH – Why the discrepancy in the figures? Ms Milliken – The discrepancy between? Senator NASH – The 5 ½ thousand in the first year, moving to 10 000 to 11 000 in subsequent years. Ms Sykes – The numbers build, and it comes down to a number of assumptions in looking at the populations. It is averaged over a two year period for students that fall into this category. The costings – Senator NASH – if you haven't got any idea I am happy for you to take it on notice. Ms Sykes – We could probably provide a more fulsome explanation on notice. Senator NASH – You would agree, wouldn't you, that with figures of 5 ½ thousand in the first year then doubling in the second year there would have to be a significant reason for that to be the way that you have counted the numbers? Ms Sykes – If you have 5 ½ thousand, in the following year there will be another 5 ½ thousand plus the 5 ½ thousand from that first year. That would give you the population, so it is a cumulative effect. Senator NASH – It is a cumulative effect; okay. I am struggling a little bit as to how you can be so definitive about the actual cost and yet a bit grey about what the actual figures are. Surely it is just determined by figuring out how much per student it is going to cost and adding it up – to be very simplistic. How about I make it easy and you take on notice for us, if you do not mind, the exact determination of – that is, how you arrived at – those figures.

**Answer**

Refer to response provided at SIH-W3.