

**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 – H4

Senator Back asked on 17 December 2010, EEWHR Hansard page 49.

Question

Senator BACK – I then go to the ‘aspirations of government’ – to be applauded – and that is by 2020, 20 per cent of students in higher education will be from low socioeconomic areas including regional. Do you have any figures now for the proportion of those low socioeconomic statistics that would include the regional students, the non-metropolitan students? Ms Milliken – I will...take that on notice, we may be able to come back with that information.

Answer

In 2009, 31 per cent of domestic higher education students from non-metropolitan areas were from a low socioeconomic status area.

Notes

- (a) Data excludes students whose permanent home address is overseas or unknown, or whose socioeconomic status or region cannot be determined.
- (b) Low socioeconomic status (SES) postcode measure is based on the students' postcode of permanent home residence, with the SES value derived from the SEIFA Education and Occupation Index for postal areas, where postal areas in the bottom 25 per cent of the population aged 15–64 being classified as Low SES. This is the standard method used in Higher Education Statistics Collections publications.
- (c) Metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas are derived from Australian Standard Geographical Classifications (ASGC) published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.