

Senate Standing Committees on Education and Employment

***Inquiry into the Universities Accord (Student Support and Other Measures)
Bill 2024 [Provisions]***

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Date of hearing: 24 September 2024

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations Question No. IQ24-000045

Senator Mehreen Faruqi on 24 September 2024, Proof Hansard page 57

24 SEPT 24 | Commonwealth Prac Payments

Question

Senator FARUQI: Thank you. I've a quick question, and maybe this one is for employment and workplace. How was the figure of \$319.50, I think it is, for Commonwealth prac payments, determined? That comes out to be about \$8 an hour, if you look at it that way. And was minimum wage considered in the modelling?

Ms Angus: The rate of \$319.50 per week was benchmarked to the single Austudy rate and will be provided to students on top of any existing primary income support that they might be receiving.

Senator FARUQI: Was minimum wage ever considered or modelled?

Ms Angus: That would have been in our original advice to government. I'm not sure.

Ms Faithfull: Senator Faruqi, can we take that one on notice and come back to you as to whether that was an input into the modelling?

Senator FARUQI: Okay. Great. Thank you.

Answer

No, the minimum wage was not an input into the modelling. The Commonwealth Prac Payment is an Australian Government payment which is designed to provide cost-of-living relief as a supplement to any existing primary income; it is not intended to be an income (or wage) replacement.