

**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 – H3

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

Question

Senator BACK – My next question is: in the event that this overall activity had to be budget neutral, how much would it have to reduce per student to actually be able to include every student whose eligibility would be the need to relocate from their home? That is what I am getting at. I understand budget sensitivities. If the government cannot afford the \$90 million a year or \$270 million over forward estimates, I want to know by how much it would have to decrease for each student to then include the 5500 or presumably the significant proportion of them. If you could take that on notice, I would be appreciative. Ms Milliken – By ‘decrease’ you mean decrease the rate of Youth Allowance at the independent rate? Senator BACK – That is correct.

Answer

The response to the question involves a complex calculation and will be provided by 27 January 2011.