

**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 – H8

Senator Nash asked on 17 December 2010, EEWHR Hansard page 54.

Question

Senator NASH –Also, could you indicate on notice to the committee how many students in the outer regional, remote and very remote areas you expect to access independent Youth Allowance next year? I am assuming there are some – Ms Milliken – Outer regional, remote and very remote under the measure that commences from 1 January? Senator NASH – Under the measure that they are able to use the existing criteria of the gap year, if you could do that for me as well. Ms Milliken – I think that number is about 1900. Senator NASH – OK.

Answer

DEEWR estimates that around 1900 students in the vocational education and training and higher education sectors may qualify as independent under Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY in 2011–12 as a result of satisfying the element of the workforce participation criterion which requires a student to earn at least \$19 532 within a period of 18 months since finishing school.

Other students will achieve independence as a result of reaching the age of 23 years (or 22 years from 1 January 2012) or satisfying other criteria such as being married.