

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 4 JUNE 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Dependent Youth Allowance – Living Away from Home rate

Question reference number: HS 28

Senator: Smith

Type of question: Hansard page 97

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013

Number of pages: 3

Question:

- a) Senator SMITH: Can the department advise of the total expenditure for 2012 on dependent youth allowance at the living away from home rate?

Mr Sandison: We would have to do a check. Again, as with one of the previous questions, the data on those payments and the legislation are owned by our colleague departments, so we would refer back to them if need be, where the referral of the question is directly to them, or get an answer and get it cleared through them.

- b) Senator SMITH: Fantastic. I think the reason that some of the questions have come here may be that there has been a lack of clarity in other places about where they should be answered. So, if you can answer them but have to access information from somewhere else, perhaps identifying that would be beneficial as well. Can this figure—the dependent youth allowance figure at the living away from home rate—be further broken down to show the total expenditure on dependent youth allowance at the living away from home rate for regional and remote students only?

Mr Sandison: We will have to do a check on that, again, because of the nature of how the geography is broken up under where we define remote, regional and so on in the categories. But we will see what we can do.

Senator SMITH: Great. Thanks very much.

Answer:

- a) The attached table shows the expenditure for full time students and Australian apprentices in receipt of Youth Allowance in 2012. The data shows expenditure on the additional benefits for Youth Allowance recipients in that year including:
- Rent Assistance;
 - Relocation Scholarship;
 - Student Start-up Scholarship;
 - Clean Energy Advance;
 - Income Support Bonus; and
 - Youth Disability Supplement.
- b) The Department of Human Services is unable to obtain Youth Allowance expenditure data broken down by whether a person is dependent or independent, or whether they are at home or away from home.