

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Social Services Portfolio**  
**2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 1**

**Question No: 301**

**Topic: Employment**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Lines** asked:

Kevin Andrews told The Australian people under 30 must acquire skills linked to the labour market in order to receive Youth Allowance when they are prevented from receiving the dole (Hobby courses out of bounds under 'earn or learn', Aus, 27/5/2014).

- a) If a person has a higher level qualification, are they expected to do any training, even at a lower level? If they aren't, what are they supposed to do if there is no higher training in their relevant field? How does the Minister intend to ensure that they are not just doing training for training's sake?
- b) Will the Department of Industry or the Department of Employment publish a list of courses that are considered "hobby courses"?
- c) Will appearing on the list of "hobby courses" be able to be appealed by an education provider?

**Answer:**

- a) If a person has a higher level qualification, they are expected to do training which would enhance their employability.
- b) Under the *Social Security Act 1991*, an approved course of education or study for Youth Allowance (student) and Austudy is defined as a course determined under section 5D of the *Student Assistance Act 1973* to be a secondary or tertiary course. The Student Assistance (Education Institutions and Courses) Determination 2009 (No.2) can be found at: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2013C01032>. This Act is administered by the Department of Social Services and therefore confers powers on the Minister for Social Services to make such a determination.
- c) There is no formal appeals process for those whose courses did not appear on the list of approved courses. However, as the list of approved courses is found in a Ministerial Determination, there is the possibility to write to the Minister. As the criteria for appearing on the list are very definite, the likelihood of appeals is low.