

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

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 330

Topic: Stronger Participation for Jobseekers under 30

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

What is the parental income test for Youth Allowance?

Answer:

Applicants for Youth Allowance will be assessed as being either dependent or independent. If the applicant is not independent, a parental income test applies. The rate of Youth Allowance paid reduces if the parent's taxable income exceeds the threshold of \$48,837. The rate reduces by 20 cents for every \$1.00 over the threshold. The rate payable will be the lowest of that produced by the Family Actual Means Test parental income test or the personal income test.

The parental income and assets tests does not apply if the parent(s) hold a current low-income Health Care Card or they receive a designated income support payment through either the Department of Human Services or the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Family Actual Means Test may still apply. In some circumstances (where parental income decreases/increases substantially) parent(s)' income in the current tax year is used.

The parental means test does not apply to Youth Allowance (other) assessed as having a partial capacity to work.