

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

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 384

Topic: Learning opportunities for NSA and YA(O)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- (a) Will the Government guarantee that all people affected by the non-payment period measure for Under 30's measure who seek to enrol in approved education and training will have access to a suitable place at no immediate cost to them?
- (b) If they are unable to secure a place in a course despite volunteering to participate in training, will they still serve a waiting period?
- (c) If they are unable to secure a place in a course despite volunteering to participate in training, will they still serve a waiting period?

Answer:

- (a) This question should be directed to the Department of Education and the Department of Employment. It is not a 'non-payment period'; it is a 'waiting period' (as per response to Question 383).
- (b) Recipients of payments subject to the measure will need to serve the waiting period and will not qualify for Youth Allowance (student) or Austudy/ABSTUDY until they commence in an approved course. The object of the policy is to encourage full-time 'learning' on the appropriate payment or gainful employment.
- (c) Refer to answer b.